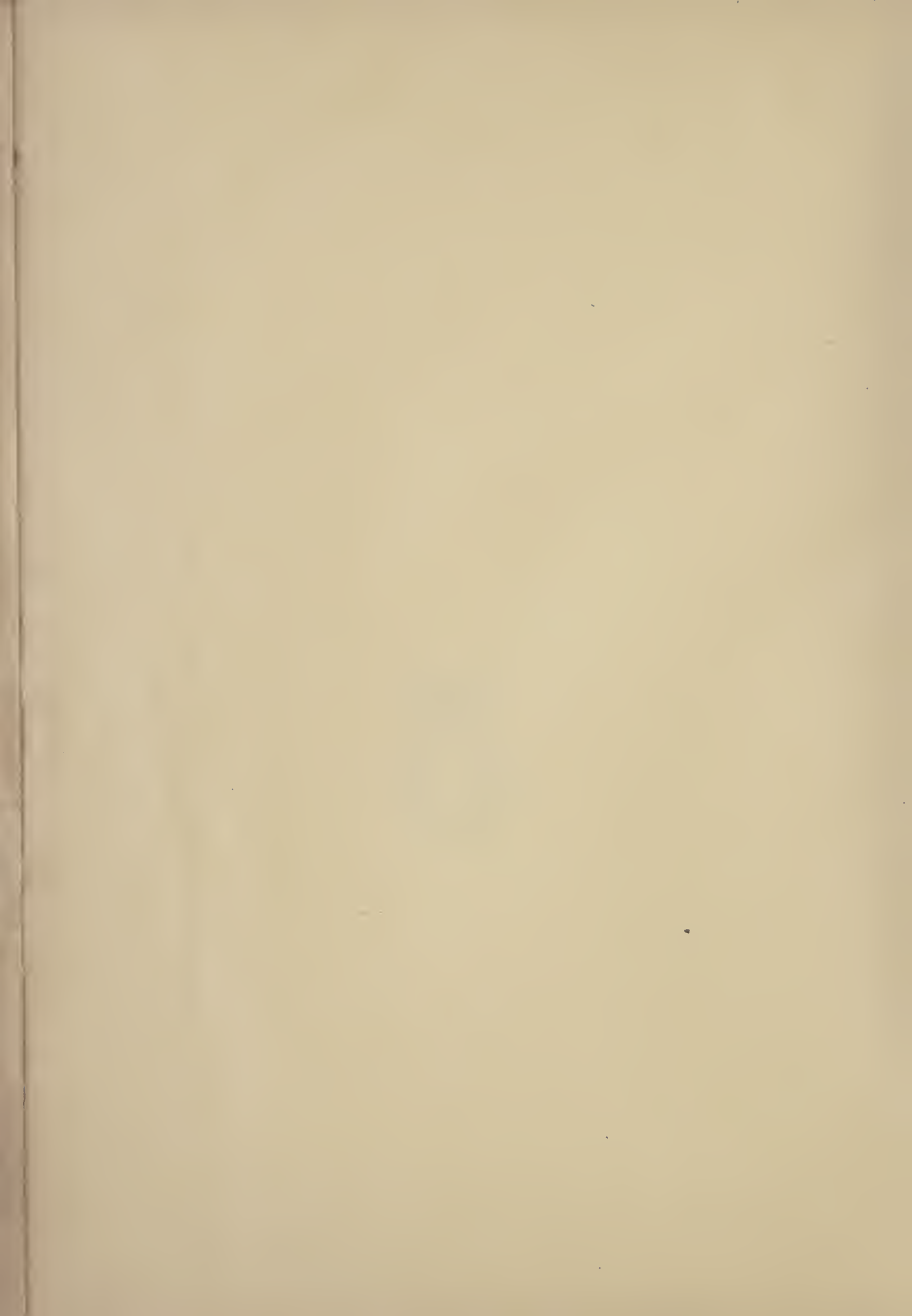


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THE
STAMPED ENVELOPES
OF THE
UNITED STATES
HORNER







STAMPED ENVELOPES
OF THE
UNITED STATES.



BY
W. E. V. HORNER, M. A.
*Professor of the Greek Language
in the Freehold Institute.*

This magnificent work is now ready for delivery. The name of the author is a sufficient guarantee of its reliability and completeness, while the marvelous accuracy of the engravings make the book one which is needed by all and can be dispensed with by none who are interested in the stamps of our own country. The illustrations show

*All the Known Types; All the Various Shapes;
The Several Watermarks.*

The list includes

*All the Various Sizes; All the Different Papers;
All the Ruled and Faint Lined Envelopes;
Albinos and Registered Envelopes.*

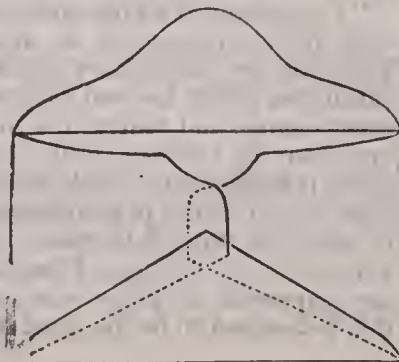
In fact, *everything one wants to know* about United States Envelopes is in this book. The Remarks and Closing Notes to each issue contain many items of interest and value upon the peculiarities of the envelopes and hints as to their comparative rarity.

This work is the most valuable one of the day to the collector, and will take the place it well deserves—that of the first authority on the subject it treats. The mechanical part of the work is all which could be desired, Messrs. Bavis & Pennypacker having done their best. Few handsomer books than the morocco edition have ever been published in any department of literature. Large octavo, fifty-six pages.

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From THE SOUTHERN PHILATELIST.

"It is a volume deserving of more than passing notice, and shows that its author, W. E. V. Horner, M. A. has given the subject his deepest attention before trusting it in print. The author divides the envelopes into eight issues, and after giving in tabulated form the various values, colors, dies, sizes, &c., appends an admirable treatise on the same at the foot of each table. The volume is profuse in illustrations and a chart of shapes accompanies the book, making the task of collecting these stamps an easy pastime, where hitherto it has been almost a labor."

From ALFRED SMITH & Co's *Monthly Circular*:

"It has certainly been reserved to Prof. Horner to offer a systematic and complete catalogue of what he terms 'these interesting philatelic families,' and to make the subject perfectly intelligible to any one who chooses to take the trouble to study the work attentively. * * We would recommend the work to the attentive study of all our readers. Even the most advanced philatelist will learn something worth knowing, while those who are as yet but imperfectly acquainted with the subject and are thirsting to know more, will find therein wherewith to slake their thirst."

From JOHN K. TIFFANY, Esq.

"To attempt to review such a work would almost be to write a treatise oneself. The general style of its typography is unusually good and its general plan meets my hearty approval. There are few unnecessary varieties quoted and no straining at a long list based on unimportant variations, which few can ever hope to run across and fewer care to. At the same time I believe every change and variety that had official sanction is noted, and perhaps a few marked departures from the intention of the Department. I would particularly praise the engravings of types given throughout the book, instead of descriptions. They are so accurate that no one ought to have any difficulty in distinguishing what they are intended to show. Their value is particularly great in the distinctions shown in the varieties of the 3 cents, first issue, and some of the varieties of 1, 2, 3 cents Plimpton, about which, probably, more than anything else, those who are supposed to know were constantly asked by those who did not. Beyond a doubt I think this is destined to be the standard list for most collectors."

From THE MONMOUTH DEMOCRAT.

"Our readers will remember an article contributed by Prof. Horner and published in the *Democrat* about two years ago, giving some very interesting facts in relation to Postage Stamps. The article went the rounds of our exchanges, and it was the general remark that it was wonderful how much curious and interesting information on a subject apparently so bare, Prof. Horner had grouped together. The work now before us, on Stamped Envelopes, will call forth a similar remark. It is a handsomely printed pamphlet of over fifty large octavo pages, giving a detailed account of these interesting Government conveniences, with illustrations of the various "heads" or stamps which at different times have adorned them. Illustrations are also given of the four "water-marks," in the paper of which the envelopes are composed, including the interesting Centennial water-mark. Portions of the work are merely descriptive, but much of it has required great care and accuracy in its preparation. The reader will wonder how the author could find the time or exercise the patience necessary to the accomplishment of the task. It is the only book in existence on the subject, and cannot fail to grow in value as time passes on."

From THE COLLECTOR'S WORLD.

"It is hardly necessary for us to show that there is ample field for such a work, as collectors have had too many occasions to appreciate the fact for themselves. Let us proceed without delay to show, very briefly, how admirably Dr. Horner has filled it. In an introductory chapter he gives a useful summary of the several issues of U. S. envelopes to be considered in detail in the pages that follow. Proceeding on, then, we find the 1853 issue condensed into three pages of letter press and illustrations. It is probable that comparatively few collectors possess all the dies and types of our early 3 cent envelopes: hence these illustrations, showing every point of difference, are an invaluable feature of the work. Passing on to the second issue we again meet excellent illustrations of all the values, including both dies of the 1 cent. Taking up the third issue, we see the same excellence that characterizes the previous pages. The illustrations are accurate and even go so far as to include both the dies of the 2 cent U. S. Postage. The Reference List is strictly accurate and complete. The fourth issue is aptly designated by Dr. Horner as 'homely and uninteresting,' but, nevertheless, he makes the very most of a dry subject. The fifth issue is dismissed by Dr. Horner in about two pages; but these contain really all that can be said upon the subject. The Reay issue comes next in order, and to it are devoted seven most interesting pages. Sizes, shapes, dies, colors, values, paper—every thing, in a word, is treated with succinctness and perspicuity. The Reference List of the War envelopes is especially commendable. The twenty-six pages written upon the Plimpton issue are evidently the result of painstaking and intelligent research. The subject is a difficult one, and, unless presented with great perspicuity, becomes simply incomprehensible to the general reader. Dr. Horner, evidently appreciating this, has exercised commendable brevity though not at the expense of thoroughness. He has stated what he has to say briefly and clearly. We can only congratulate Dr. Horner upon the completion of so valuable a work which reflects the greatest credit upon himself and must result to the lasting benefit of Philately. To Mr. Durbin, high praise is due for the form in which he presents Dr. Horner's labors to the public. The letter press is excellent and the engravings are, as already said, wonderfully accurate. Their value can be best appreciated in the Reay and Plimpton issues, where they serve to show even the most minute differences with quite as much accuracy as they can be seen on envelopes themselves."

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|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
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| 2 United States, Rutherford B. Hayes, President. | 34 Parma, Robert I, Duke. |
| 3 Austria, Francis Joseph I, Emperor. | 35 Persia, Nasr-ed-Deen, Shah. |
| 4 Baden, Frederick I, Grand Duke. | 36 Portugal, Maria II, Queen. |
| 5 Bavaria, Maximilian, King. | 37 Portugal, Pedro V, King. |
| 6 Bavaria, Louis II, King. | 38 Portugal, Louis I, King. |
| 7 Belgium, Leopold I, King. | 39 Prussia, Frederick William IV, King. |
| 8 Belgium, Leopold II, King. | 40 Roman States, Pius IX, Pope. |
| 9 Brazil, Dom Pedro II, Emperor. | 41 Roman States, Leo XIII, Pope. |
| 10 Brunswick, William, Duke. | 42 Roumania, Couza, Prince. |
| 11 Cabul, Shere Ali, Ameer. | 43 Roumania, Charles I, Prince. |
| 12 Confederate States, Jefferson Davis, President. | 44 Russia, Alexander II, Emperor. |
| 13 Denmark, Frederick VII, King. | 45 Sandwich Islands, Kamehameha III, King. |
| 14 Denmark, Christian IX, King. | 46 Sandwich Islands, Kamehameha IV, King. |
| 15 Egypt, Ismail Pasha, Khedive. | 47 Sandwich Islands, Kamehameha V, King. |
| 16 France, Napoleon III, Emperor. | 48 Sandwich Islands, David Kalakua, King. |
| 17 France, McMahon, President. | 49 Sarawak, James Brooke, Rajah. |
| 18 German Empire, William I, Emperor. | 50 Saxony, Frederick Augustus, King. |
| 19 Great Britain, Victoria, Queen. | 51 Saxony, John, King. |
| 20 Greece, George I, King. | 52 Servia, Milan III, Prince. |
| 21 Hanover, George Frederick V, King. | 53 Servia, Milan IV, Prince. |
| 22 Holland, William III, King. | 54 Spain, Isabella II, Queen. |
| 23 Italy, Victor Emanuel II, King. | 55 Spain, Don Carlos, Pretender. |
| 24 Italy, Humbert I, King. | 56 Spain, Amadeus, King. |
| 25 Japan, Mutsuhito, Emperor. | 57 Spain, Alfonso XII, King. |
| 26 Meck. Schwerin, Frederick Francis II, G. D. | 58 Sweden, Charles XV, King. |
| 27 Meck. Strelitz, Frederick William, G. D. | 59 Turkey, Abdul Aziz, Sultan. |
| 28 Mexico, Maximilian, Emperor. | 60 Turkey, Abdul Hamid II, Sultan. |
| 29 Mexico, Diaz, President. | 61 Tuscany, Ferdinand IV, Grand Duke. |
| 30 Modena, Francis V, Duke. | 62 Two Sicilies, Ferdinand II, King. |
| 31 Montenegro, Nicholas, Hospodar. | 63 Wurtemberg, William I, King. |
| 32 Norway, Oscar II, King. | 64 Wurtemberg, Charles I, King. |

WORLD OF PHILATELY,
COATS OF ARMS,
MERCHANT FLAGS,

} The Three for One Dollar.

List by Willard, K. Freeman.

American Journal of Philately. vol VII

1 Jan'y 1873. p. 2. & seq.

List of Plimpton Envelopes by C. H. Coster.

American Journal of Philately. vol IX,

July 20. 1875 et seq.

List. U. S. Envelopes. C. H. Coster.

Lumière Poste. No 190 et seq. Octo 1878.

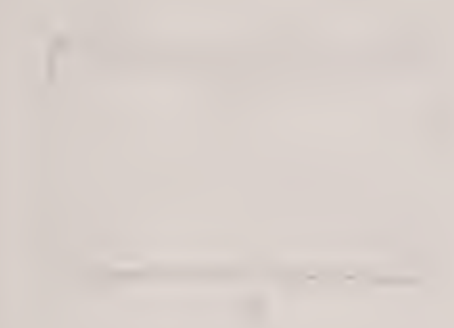
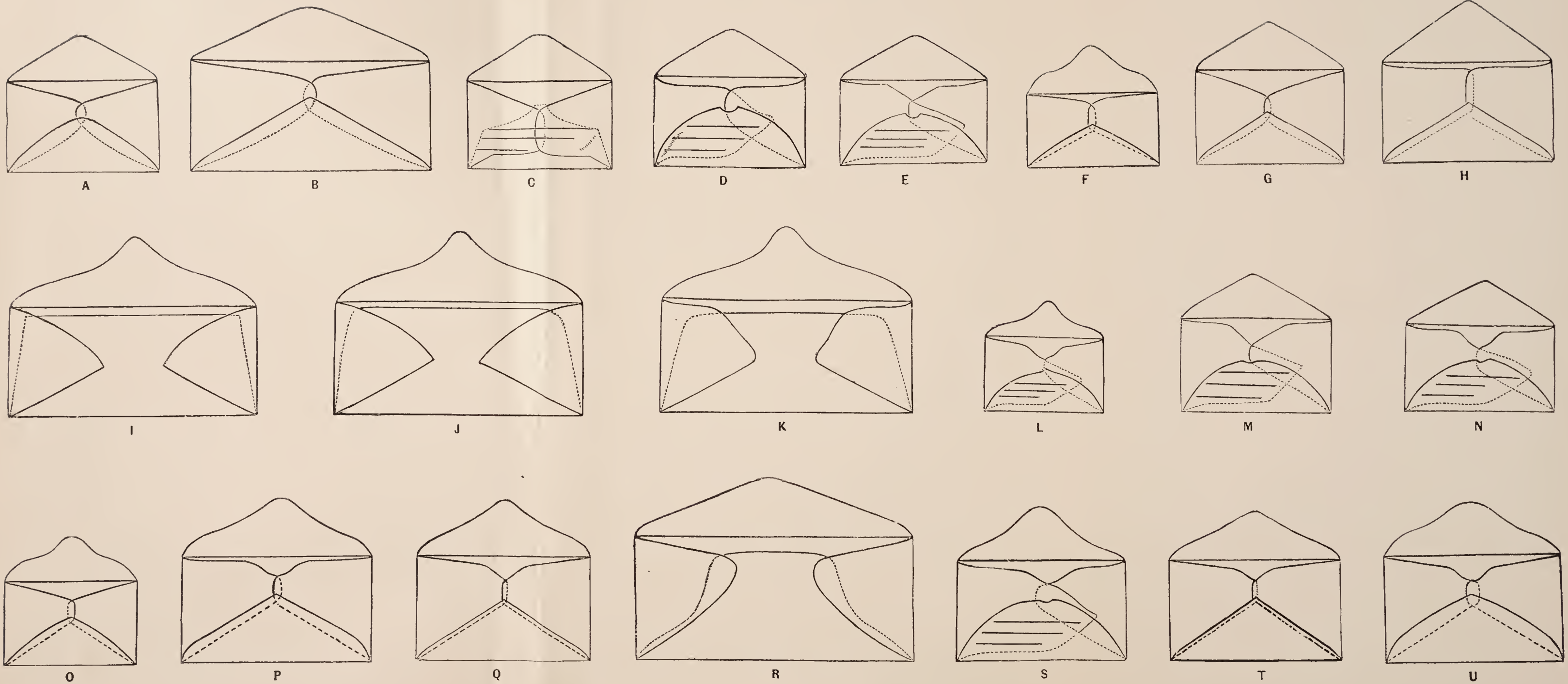


TABLE OF SHAPES.



F. A. Philbrick. Jan'y. 1879.

HISTORY AND CATALOGUE
OF THE
STAMPED ENVELOPES
OF THE
UNITED STATES,

TOGETHER WITH SOME

GENERAL REMARKS,

BY

W. E. V. HORNER, M. A.,

Professor of the Greek Language in the Freehold Institute.

PHILADELPHIA:

L. W. DURBIN,

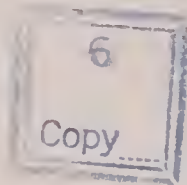
PUBLISHER AND FOREIGN STAMP IMPORTER,

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1879.

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BAVIS & PENNYPACKER,
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UNITED STATES ENVELOPES.

Since the first attempt, by Mr. Pemberton, in July, 1869, to bring order out of the chaos in which the envelopes of this country were involved, an essay, more complete, because more highly favored by advantages for success, has appeared, beginning in January, 1873, from the pen of Mr. Willard K. Freeman, of New York city. With these two exceptions, and the admirable papers of Mr. Coster on the Plimpton issue, we believe little has been done toward a systematic and entirely complete catalogue of these interesting philatelic families. It has been urged that Mr. Freeman's list is too diffuse, but the wonder is that it is so very nearly accurate, as it is that Mr. Pemberton, four years before, had made so excellent a beginning.

That there is but one way to collect envelopes, viz.: in an entire condition, we believe, is now generally admitted. It is in view of this, and of what the writer believes to be a growing interest in their collection throughout the country, that this essay is begun. It is the result of much study and careful comparison of the principal collections in this country, and if it furthers the advancement of genuine philatelic enthusiasm in this direction, will have amply done its work.

In the consideration of the envelopes of the United States, no less than eight issues are presented to our notice. The partial emission of four values by the Plimpton Co., in 1874, was but the forerunner of the complete series in the following year, and cannot claim rank as a separate issue. To give these eight issues at a glance, we present the following table :

ISSUE I. (<i>Nesbitt.</i>)					
<i>Date of Issue.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Color.</i>	<i>Dies.</i>	<i>Sizes.</i>	<i>Col. Pap.</i>
1853, Aug. 4,	3 c.	Red	Two	Two	Two
1853, Aug. 4,	6 c.	Green	One	One	Two
1853, Oct. 17,	6 c.	Red	One	One	Two
1855, April 2,	10 c.	Green	Two	One	Two
ISSUE II. (<i>Nesbitt.</i>)					
1857,	1 c.	Blue	Two	Two	Three
1860, Sept. 10,	3 c.	Red	One	Four	Two
1860,	4 c.	Blue and red	Two	Two	Two
1860, Sept. 10,	6 c.	Red	One	One	Two
1860, Sept. 10,	10 c.	Green	One	One	Two

United States Envelopes.

ISSUE III. (<i>Nesbitt.</i>)					
<i>Date of Issue.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Color.</i>	<i>Dies.</i>	<i>Sizes.</i>	<i>Col. Pap.</i>
1861, July 1,	3 c.	Rose	One	Four	Two
1861, July 1,	6 c.	Rose	One	One	Two
1861, July 1,	10 c.	Green	One	Two	Two
1861,	12 c.	Bronze and red	One	One	One
1861,	20 c.	Blue and red	One	One	One
1861,	24 c.	Green and red	One	One	Two
1861,	40 c.	Black and red	One	One	Two
1863, July 1,	2 c.	Black	Two	Two	Two

NOTE AND LETTER SHEET. (<i>Nesbitt.</i>)					
1861, Aug. 1,	3 c.	Rose	One	Two	One

ISSUE IV. (<i>Nesbitt.</i>)					
1864,	2 c.	Black	Two	Three	Three
1864, Dec.	3 c.	Rose	One	Three	Two
1864,	6 c.	Rose	One	One	Two

ISSUE V. (<i>Nesbitt.</i>)					
1865,	3 c.	Brown	One	One	Three
1865,	6 c.	Lilac	One	One	Three
1866,	9 c.	Orange	One	One	Two
1866,	12 c.	Stone	One	One	One
1866,	12 c.	Claret	One	One	One
1866,	18 c.	Red	One	One	One
1866,	24 c.	Blue	One	One	One
1866,	30 c.	Green	One	One	One
1866,	40 c.	Rose	One	One	One

(<i>Reay</i>) ISSUE VI.					
1870,	1 c.	Blue	One	Four	Four
1870,	2 c.	Brown	One	Four	Four
1870, Oct. 1,	3 c.	Green	One	Five	Three
1870, Oct. 1,	6 c.	Red	One	Four	Three
1871, Feb. 1,	7 c.	Vermilion	One	One	One
1870,	10 c.	Brown	One	One	Two
1870,	12 c.	Purple	One	Two	Three
1870,	15 c.	Orange	One	Two	Three
1870,	24 c.	Lilac	One	Two	Three
1870,	30 c.	Black	One	Two	Three
1870,	90 c.	Carmine	One	Two	Three

(<i>Reay</i>) POST OFFICE ENVELOPES.					
1873,	2 c.	Black	One	Three	One
1873,	3 c.	Black	One	Four	One
1873,	6 c.	Black	One	Four	One

WAR ENVELOPES. *Reay.*

<i>Date of Issue.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Color.</i>	<i>Dies.</i>	<i>Sizes.</i>	<i>Col. Pap.</i>
1873,	1 c.	Red	One	Two	Two
1873,	2 c.	Red	One	Two	Two
1873,	3 c.	Red	One	Four	Three
1873,	6 c.	Red	One	Threc	Two
1873,	10 c.	Red	One	One	One
1873,	12 c.	Red	One	Two	One
1873,	15 c.	Red	One	Two	One
1873,	24 c.	Red	One	One	One
1873,	30 c.	Red	One	Two	One

ISSUE VII. *Plumpton.*

1874-75,	1 c.	Blue	Two	Four	Four
1874-75,	2 c.	Brown	Three	Four	Five
1874-75,	2 c.	Red	Two	Three	Five
1874-75,	3 c.	Green	Two	Six	Five
1875,	5 c.	Blue	Two	Three	Four
1875,	6 c.	Red	One	Five	Three
1875,	7 c.	Vermilion	One	One	One
1874-75,	10 c.	Brown	Two	Three	Two
1875,	12 c.	Purple	One	Two	Three
1875,	15 c.	Orange	One	Two	Three
1875,	24 c.	Lilac	One	Two	Three
1875,	30 c.	Black	One	Two	Three
1875,	90 c.	Carmine	One	Two	Three

POST OFFICE ENVELOPES. *Plumpton*

1875,	2 c.	Black	One	Four	Two
1875,	3 c.	Black	One	Threc	Two
1875,	6 c.	Black	One	Four	One

WAR ENVELOPES. *Plumpton.*

1875-76,	1 c.	Red	One	Two	Three
1875-76,	2 c.	Red	One	Three	Four
1875-76,	3 c.	Red	One	Five	Four
1875-76,	6 c.	Red	One	Four	Three
1875-76,	10 c.	Red	One	Two	Two
1875-76,	12 c.	Red	One	Two	Two
1875-76,	15 c.	Red	One	Two	Two
1875-76,	30 c.	Red	One	Two	Two

POSTAL SERVICE ENVELOPES. *Plumpton.*

1876-77,	None	Bluc	One	Four	One
----------	------	------	-----	------	-----

6 *Nesbitt United States Envelopes.*

ISSUE VIII (<i>Plimpton.</i>)					
<i>Date of Issue.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Color.</i>	<i>Dies.</i>	<i>Sizes.</i>	<i>Col. Pap.</i>
1878,	1 c.	Blue	One	Four	Four
1878,	2 c.	Vermillion	One	Three	Four
1878,	3 c.	Green	One	Six	Four
1878,	5 c.	Dark blue	One	Three	Four
1878,	6 c.	Red	One	Four	Three
1878,	10 c.	Chocolate	One	Two	Two
1878,	15 c.	Orange	One	One	One
1878,	30 c.	Black	One	One	One
1878,	90 c.	Carmine	One	One	One

In explanation of the above table, it is due Mr. Freeman to state that the dates are all, as far as the seventh issue, taken from him. The first five issues were emitted by Messrs. Geo. F. Nesbitt & Co., of New York; the sixth by Messrs. Geo. H. Reay & Co., also of New York; and the seventh and eighth by the Plimpton Manufacturing Co., of Hartford, Conn. The value needs no explanation. The color means the original hue of the impression, often greatly altered by accident, by excess or lack of coloring, by fading, etc. The dies refer to separate and distinct varieties, not the sub-varieties of the 1853, etc., issues. The sizes are intended to show those in use, and do not include the shapes of the envelopes or the ruled, blue-lined, or other envelopes. These shapes, a most important part of the study of the envelopes, will be treated of under the respective issues. The newspaper wrappers of the second, third and fourth issues have but one size assigned to them. The colors of paper are those recognized by the Government, and do not here include the many shades of buff, salmon, etc. No complete catalogue of the war, post office, or postal service envelopes has ever been made, and an attempt will be made in the proper place to reduce the last named to some system.

RULED ENVELOPES.

Although a few minutes' study of the shapes, as they are presented in the engravings, will suffice to give a knowledge of the ruled or "patent-lined" envelopes, a few words may not be amiss. The lines are three in number, ruled heavily on the side flap, so as to show through the paper and guide the writer. They are found in the first, second, third, fourth and sixth issues, the patent bearing date Nov. 20, 1855. With three exceptions, they are found only on the 3 c. values, the exceptions being the 1 c. on orange and compound 4 c., Full Letter, on white and buff, Issue II, and the Full Letter 10 c., on white and buff, Issue III, until we reach Issue VI, when they are found on one size each, 1 c. and 2 c., white and amber, and on three sizes, 3 c., on white, amber and cream. As will be seen by Reference List Issue VI, the blue-lined variety is found on one size 1 c., white and amber, and four sizes 3 c.

ISSUE I.

By reference to the numbered cuts, and a careful examination of the sub-varieties of the dies of the three cent stamp, a detailed description is rendered unnecessary. Let the collector note that all the envelopes are "round-flap," *i. e.*, that the part bearing the gum is rounded, not pointed; let him observe the number of loops at the sides of the oval in the 3 cent dies, and the great width of the label in Die 1 of 3 c., and Die 2 of 10 c., and we think he will be enabled to understand all that is needed. The four shapes shown are all that are found in this issue, and the sizes given are those nearly corresponding to the present or Plimpton issue, viz.: Note, No. 1; Full Letter, No. 3; and Official, No. 7; the writer thinking that this will be more readily understood than to give the sizes every time in inches or millimetres. The shapes are A, B, C and D.



Die 1
Type 1. Center A



Die 2—A
Type 2. Center. 1" dia. B



Die 2—B
Type 2. Center. 1" dia. B



Die 2—C
Type 2. Center. 1" dia. B



Die 2—D
Type 2. Center. 1" dia. B



Die 2—E
Type 2. Center. 1" dia. B



Die 1



Die 2

Nesbitt.

8 Nesbitt United States Envelopes.

REFERENCE LIST ISSUE I.						
No.	Size.	Shape.	Die.	Color.	Value.	Paper.
	Note.					
1 ✓	2 $\frac{7}{8}$ x 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	A	2 Var. A	Red	3 c. ✓	White
2 ✓	2 $\frac{7}{8}$ x 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	A	2 Var. D	Red	3 c. ✓	White
3 ✓	2 $\frac{7}{8}$ x 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	A	2 Var. E	Red	3 c. ✓	White
	Full Letter.					
4	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	1	Red	3 c.	White
5	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	1	Red	3 c.	Buff
6	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	2 Var. A	Red	3 c. ✓	White
7	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	2 Var. A	Red	3 c. ✓	Buff
8 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	2 Var. B	Red	3 c. ✓	White
9 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	2 Var. B	Red	3 c. ✓	Buff
10 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	2 Var. C	Red	3 c. ✓	White
11 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	2 Var. C	Red	3 c. ✓	Buff
12 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	2 Var. D	Red	3 c. ✓	White
13 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	2 Var. D	Red	3 c. ✓	Buff
14 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	C	2 Var. D	Red	3 c. ✓	White
15 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	C	2 Var. D	Red	3 c. ✓	Buff
16 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	D	2 Var. D	Red	3 c. ✓	White
17 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	D	2 Var. D	Red	3 c. ✓	Buff
18 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	2 Var. E	Red	3 c. ✓	White
19 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	2 Var. E	Red	3 c. ✓	Buff
20 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	1	Green	6 c. ✓	White
21 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	1	Green	6 c. ✓	Buff
22 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	1	Green	10 c. ✓	White
23 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	1	Green	10 c. ✓	Buff
24 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	2	Green	10 c. ✓	White
25 ✓	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	A	2	Green	10 c. ✓	Buff
	Official.					
26 ✓	3 $\frac{7}{8}$ x 8 $\frac{5}{8}$	B	1	Red	6 c. ✓	White
27 ✓	3 $\frac{7}{8}$ x 8 $\frac{5}{8}$	B	1	Red	6 c. ✓	Buff

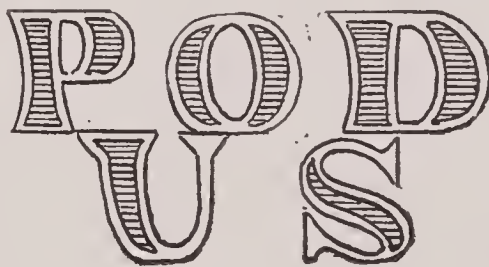
CLOSING NOTES.

The illustrations given of the dies, with their varieties, render any description unnecessary. It is sufficient to say that the varieties of Die 2 of the 3 c. were undoubtedly produced by trimming as the die wore away. The five varieties are readily recognized by counting the loops in the border at the sides, which will be found to agree with the engravings. If any envelopes of Note size were made from Varieties B and C of Die 2, they have absolutely disappeared. Note size is never found on buff paper. Nos. 4 and 5 are exceedingly scarce. We know of but one uncut copy of No. 4—none of No. 5. Until recently, No. 8 was unknown to collectors, when Mr. Durbin first called attention to it publicly. Nos. 14 and 15 are now rare, as they were but little used, owing to their peculiar make. Nos.

no 4 uncut. white in coll. Image. Petrie.
no 5. uncut. buff. in coll Image.

18 and 19 are found in all stages of transition from Varieties D to E, such stages consisting in the partial wearing away of the connecting lines between the label and border. We have preferred to consider it, when entirely free from any such lines, as a distinct variety. In Nos. 24 and 25, the head is larger than in Die 1 of the 10 c., and bears a marked resemblance to the head of Nos. 4 and 5. Nos. 26 and 27 are made from the same die as 20 and 21, the color only being changed.

The paper varies much in texture, both white and buff. There are no less than five distinct shades of the latter, varying from light yellow to deep brown. All the paper is watermarked P O D with the letters U S immediately beneath. Reprints (always cut) abound, but are readily known by Mr. Freeman's test—that the lines in the paper (technically called vergeures) are always perpendicular in such reprints, but oblique in the originals. Mr. Nesbitt printed his card, a round tress in red, on the flaps of many envelopes of the 3 c. We have never seen it on other values, and attach no philatelic importance to it. The following is a fac simile of the watermark found in all of the envelopes supplied by Mr. Nesbitt:



ISSUE II.

This issue is an interesting one for many reasons. In it the 1 c. wrappers and envelopes first appear; a compound value (perhaps for drop letters) is introduced; new forms and sizes are emitted; and the design of the embossed stamps is totally changed.

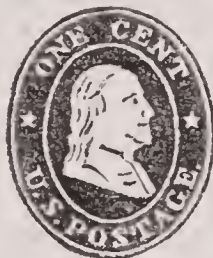
The 1 c. value first saw the light late in 1857, while the remaining three values, the 3 c., 6 c. and 10 c., with the compound 4 c., did not appear until September, 1860. The four different designs, as well as the five new shapes introduced, are shown in the accompanying engravings, and need no description. The main differences between Dies 1 and 2 of the 1 c. are: first, Die 2 is much the better engraved, and second, there is no dot after the word "Postage." The head of Washington on the 3 c., 6 c. and 10 c. is as nearly identical as the engraver's skill could make it. In regard to the shapes, it is as well to state that while E and N much resemble each other, a marked difference will be found in the form of the upper flap, E being round and N pointed. Shape C does not again appear in any issue. The shapes found in the present emission are A, B, D, E, G, L, M and N.



Die 1



Die 2



4 cents.

REFERENCE LIST ISSUE II.

No.	Size.	Shape.	Die.	Color.	Value.	Paper.
Full Letter.						
28✓	3¼ x 5½	A	1	Blue	1 c.	Buff
29✓	3¼ x 5½	A	1	Blue	1 c.	Orange
30✓	3¼ x 5½	D	1	Blue	1 c.	Buff
31✓	3¼ x 5½	G	2	Blue	1 c.	Straw
Ladies' Note.						
32✓	2⅝ x 4⅝	L		Red	3 c.	White
Note.						
33✓	2⅞ x 4¾	A		Red	3 c.	White
Ordinary Letter.						
34✓	3½ x 5⅝	E		Red	3 c.	White
34½✓	3½ x 5⅝	E		Red	3 c.	Buff
35✓	3½ x 5⅝	N		Red	3 c.	White
35½✓	3½ x 5⅝	N		Red	3 c.	Buff
36✓	3½ x 5⅝	E	1	Blue and red	4 c.	White
36½✓	3½ x 5⅝	E	1	Blue and red	4 c.	Buff
37✓	3½ x 5⅝	N	1	Blue and red	4 c.	White
37½✓	3½ x 5⅝	N	1	Blue and red	4 c.	Buff
Full Letter.						
38✓	3¼ x 5½	A		Red	3 c.	White
39✓	3¼ x 5½	A		Red	3 c.	Buff
40✓	3¼ x 5½	A	1	Blue and red	4 c.	White
41✓	3¼ x 5½	A	1	Blue and red	4 c.	Buff
42✓	3¼ x 5½	M	1	Blue and red	4 c.	White
43✓	3¼ x 5½	M	1	Blue and red	4 c.	Buff
44✓	3¼ x 5½	A		Green	10 c.	White
45✓	3¼ x 5½	A		Green	10 c.	Buff

30½. See below

30½ ✓

3¼ x 5½. G. 1. Blue.

1c.

Orange.

28. Gummed & ungummed: as issued.

No.	Size.	Shape.	Die.	Color.	Value.	Paper.
Official.						
46✓	3 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 8 $\frac{5}{8}$	B		Red	6 c.	White
47✓	3 $\frac{1}{8}$ x 8 $\frac{5}{8}$	B		Red	6 c.	Buff
Wrappers.						
48✓	Various		1	Blue	1 c.	Yellow
49✓	Various		1	Blue	1 c.	Manila
50✓	Various		2	Blue	1 c.	Straw
- 48 {	ungummed.					
- 49 }						

CLOSING NOTES.

There is but little to add. The paper does not perhaps vary so much as in the previous issue, either in white or buff. It is watermarked as in the 1853 envelopes, and reprints can be detected in the same way. The apparent varieties in Die 1 of the 1 c. are owing to coarse impressions as the die or the leather beneath it became worn. We have given no size for the 1 c. wrappers, as they are found in many. They are always reetangular, and sometimes very narrow, at others broad and nearly square. No. 28 is found both gummed and ungummed, as also is No. 30. No. 31 is now rare. No. 32 was used but little owing to its small size. Nos. 36 and 37 are rare, as are also 42 and 43 ; in faet, all the 4 c. envelopes are scaree in an entire condition. Nos. 44 and 45 are growing rare in an unused state. They are found with many western franks, partieularly "Wells, Fargo & Co.," stamped on them. Nos. 46 and 47 are exceeedinglly rare, among the most so of any United States envelopes. Nos. 48 and 49 are found gummed and ungummed. No. 50 is rare. We have never met with it gummed.

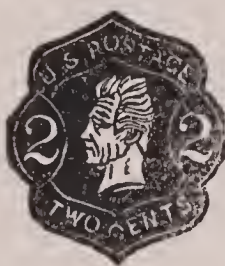
ISSUE III.

This issue is notable: first, for the four new values introduced ; second, for the great number of shapes and sizes found in it ; third, for its being the only United States issue bearing stamps printed in two eolors ; and fourth, for the introduction of the blue letter-sheets, whose revival was lately talked of in the Plimpton issue. The envelopes all appeared between July and December, 1861, except the 2 c. which did not come until the middle of 1863. The letter and note sheets were issued in August, 1861, and suppressed in April, 1864. In the designs of the stamps there is, as will be seen by the engravings, but little improvement either in design or workmanship. The five highest values closely resemble each other in design, but while the 10 c. is printed solely in green, the 12 c., 20 c. and 24 c. have the disc respectively bronze, blue and green, and the lettering red. while the 40 c. has the disc red and lettering blaek.

In addition to the eight shapes already met with, we have four new ones presented to us in this issue, making eleven shapes (C being excluded), besides the two sheets which are in size: Note, ten inches long by eight

12 Nesbitt United States Envelopes.

wide ; and Letter, fourteen inches long by ten wide, each bearing the embossed three cent stamp. Almost the only difference between shapes I and J is that in the former the bottom flap of the envelope terminates properly in a sharp point, while in the latter it has been cut off at more of an angle and rounded. The difference in the shapes of M and N should also be noted. To repeat, the shapes found in this issue are A, B, D, E, G, H, I, J, L, M, and N. ✓



REFERENCE LIST ISSUE III.

No.	Size.	Shape.	Die.	Color.	Value.	Paper.
51✓	Ladies' Note	L		Red	3 c.	White
52✓	Note	A		Red	3 c.	White
53✓	Ord. Letter	E		Red	3 c.	White
54✓	Ord. Letter	E		Red	3 c.	Buff
55✓	Full Letter	A	1	Black	2 c.	Straw
56✓	Full Letter	A	1	Black	2 c.	Orange.
57✓	Full Letter	G	2	Black	2 c.	Straw
58✓	Full Letter	G	2	Black	2 c.	Orange.
59✓	Full Letter	A		Red	3 c.	White.
57½✓	Full letter	G	1.	Black	2.c.	Straw.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Size.</i>	<i>Shape.</i>	<i>Die.</i>	<i>Color.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Paper.</i>
60✓	Full Letter	A		Red	3 c.	Buff
— 61	Full Letter	D		Red	3 c.	White
— 62	Full Letter	D		Red	3 c.	Buff
63✓	Full Letter	G		Red	3 c.	White
64✓	Full Letter	G		Red	3 c.	Buff
65✓	Full Letter	M		Red	3 c.	White
66✓	Full Letter	M		Red	3 c.	Buff
— 67	Extra Letter	H		Red	3 c.	White
68✓	Extra Letter	H		Red	3 c.	Buff
69✓	Official	B		Rose	6 c.	White
70✓	Official	B		Rose	6 c.	Buff
71✓	Full Letter	A		Green	10 c.	White
72✓	Full Letter	A		Green	10 c.	Buff
73✓	Full Letter	G		Green	10 c.	White
74✓	Full Letter	G		Green	10 c.	Buff
75✓	Full Letter	M		Green	10 c.	White
76✓	Full Letter	M		Green	10 c.	Buff
77✓	Official	I		Bronze and red	12 c.	Straw
78✓	Extra Official	I		Blue and red	20 c.	Straw
79✓	Extra Official	J		Green and red	24 c.	Straw
80✓	Extra Official	J		Green and red	24 c.	Salmon
81✓	Extra Official	J		Red and black	40 c.	Straw
82✓	Extra Official	J		Red and black	40 c.	Salmon
83✓	Note Sheet	Rectangle		Rose	3 c.	Blue
84✓	Letter Sheet	Rectangle		Rose	3 c.	Blue
85✓	Wrapper	Rectangle	1	Black	2 c.	Manila
— 86	Wrapper	Rectangle	2	Black	2 c.	Manila

CLOSING NOTES.

In this issue, the change was begun in the shapes of the envelopes from the old round flap to the pointed flap, and if it is borne in mind by the collector that shapes A and D are the old plain and ruled respectively, while G and M are the new—that all envelopes of the first two named shapes are round flap, while the latter two are pointed—it will assist him in understanding what is otherwise a somewhat confused subject. The shape of the side flaps in D and M is also markedly different. The difference in I and J will also be noted.

Attention is called to the two dies of the 2 c., differing mainly in the shape of the numeral. These have never been noted before, nor has No. 51 ever been catalogued. Nos. 67 and 68 are very rare. The writer is of the opinion that the 10 c. was not issued on shape D. The paper of the 10 c. varies very much in color and texture, the buff in particular running from light straw to deep brown. The four highest values were never issued on white paper, and in the case of the 12 c., 20 c. and 24 c. the inscriptions

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are printed in red, while in the 40 c. they are printed in black. The paper of Nos. 80 and 82 is a thick, coarse fibre, heavier than any heretofore used. The note and letter sheets are made of a handsome thick blue paper, watermarked, like all the other paper of this and previous issues, with the department watermark. The newspaper wrappers are of uniform size, $5\frac{3}{4}$ by $8\frac{7}{8}$ inches, and are gummed. The color of the 2 c. stamp on them is a very deep black. The custom of printing a request to return was begun in this issue, on the left hand of the envelope, and the wording differs much. So far as known, there are no reprints of this emission.

ISSUE IV.

This homely and uninteresting issue, consisting of but three values, a 2 c., 3 c. and 6 c., made its appearance late in 1864. The design of the 2 c., as will be seen by the engraving, is similar to that of the same value in the last issue, except that the word "Postage" is contracted into "Post." There are two dies of this stamp, varying only in width, the first one being almost exactly an inch wide, the other slightly wider. There appears also to be a variety of the second die, which is wider than either of the other two. The first die is somewhat scarcer than the others. There are no varieties of the 3 c. and 6 c. They are often very poorly printed. The round flap makes its final appearance in this issue, the note size 3 c. being found in this shape (A.) Two new shapes make themselves known: F and K. There are in all seven shapes: A, F, G, H, I, K and M. The collector's attention is called to the difference between I and K, consisting in the shape of the upper corners of the bottom flap.



Die 1



Die 2





2 cents. die 1. 2 varieties. observe. U & V. of U.S. broader.
narrower. . my 89 a.
+ 90 a.

99½ is H size. 1st or smaller type of die 2. 2 cents.

91½ full letter. 2nd or larger type of die 2. 2 cents.

92½

REFERENCE LIST ISSUE IV.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Size.</i>	<i>Shape.</i>	<i>Die.</i>	<i>Color.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Paper.</i>
87✓	Note	A		Pink	3 c.	White
88✓	Note	F		Pink	3 c.	White
89✓	Full Letter	G	1	Black	2 c.	Straw
90✓	Full Letter	G	1	Black	2 c.	Orange
91	Full Letter	G	2	Black	2 c.	Straw
92✓	Full Letter	G	2	Black	2 c.	Orange
93✓	Full Letter	G		Pink	3 c.	White
94✓	Full Letter	G		Pink	3 c.	Buff
95✓	Full Letter	M		Pink	3 c.	White
96	Full Letter	M		Pink	3 c.	Buff
97✓	Extra Letter	H	2	Black	2 c.	Straw
98✓	Extra Letter	H		Pink	3 c.	White
99✓	Extra Letter	H		Pink	3 c.	Buff
—100	Official	I		Pink	6 c.	White
—101	Official	I		Pink	6 c.	Buff
102✓	Official	K		Pink	6 c.	White
103✓	Official	K		Pink	6 c.	Buff
104✓	Wrapper	Rectangle	1	Black	2 c.	Manila
105✓	Wrapper	Rectangle	2 Var.	Black	2 c.	Manila
106	Wrapper	Rectangle	2 Var.	Black	2 c.	Manila
107✓	Wrapper	Rectangle	2 Var.	Black	2 c.	Straw

CLOSING NOTES.

It was for a long time supposed that shape A disappeared with the previous issue, but it is found in the present one. Nos. 91, 92, 97 and 106 are the widest of the three varieties of the 2 c., and the most common type. Nos. 100 and 101, on shape I, are very rare. The buff paper runs in many shades, from light straw, or amber, to deep buff. This is specially noticeable in No. 103, where the paper varies extremely. The wrappers are found in seven or eight sizes, mostly narrow. No. 107 is on a firm, yellowish paper, not at all like manila, but more like the 1 c. wrappers of the second issue. All the paper is watermarked as usual.

There are many varieties of request envelopes in this issue. We have never seen any reprints.

ISSUE V.

The only points of any interest about this issue are that it is the last made by Mr. Nesbitt, and that in it, for the first time, the 3 c. appears on official size envelopes, and the 6 c. on full letter. These two values appeared in 1865, the other six in 1866. There is no originality of design, the 3 c. and 6 c. being identical with the same values of the previous issue, and the

16. *Nesbitt. United States Envelopes.*

other six values precisely like the 10 c. of the third issue, the inscriptions only being changed. The only variety about the embossed stamps consists in the multiform shades of color, the shades amounting in the case of the 12 c. to two almost different hues. The color of the 3 c. and 6 c. also varies very greatly, and the 9 c. is found in many shades of yellow. This is the only issue since the first, where no head save that of Washington appears on the stamps. Only three shapes are found in this issue, G, J and K.



REFERENCE LIST ISSUE V.

No.	Size.	Shape.	Die.	Color.	Value.	Paper.
108 ✓	Full Letter	G		Purple	6 c.	White
109 ✓	Full Letter	G		Purple	6 c.	Straw
110 ✓	Full Letter	G		Purple	6 c.	Buff
111	Official	K		Brown	3 c.	White
112 ✓	Official	K		Brown	3 c.	Straw
113 ✓	Official	K		Brown	3 c.	Buff



No.	Size.	Shape.	Dic.	Color.	Value.	Paper.
114 ✓	Official	K		Yellow	9 c.	Straw
115 ✓	Official	K		Yellow	9 c.	Buff
116 ✓	Official	K		Stone	12 c.	Straw
117 ✓	Official	K		Claret	12 c.	Buff
118 ✓	Extra Official	J		Red	18 c.	Buff
119 ✓	Extra Official	J		Blue	24 c.	Buff
120 ✓	Extra Official	J		Green	30 c.	Buff
121 ✓	Extra Official	J		Rose	40 c.	Buff

CLOSING NOTES.

It will be observed that we have given three colors of paper for the 3 c. and 6 c. The tints are almost identical with the well-known white, amber, and cream of the two subsequent issues, and more marked perhaps than in any previous emission. The paper of No. 111 is remarkable from its extreme thinness in many instances. Nos. 115 and 116 are becoming scarce. This is the only issue of United States envelopes in which the 9 c. and 18 c. values appear, and it is also the last in which the 40 c. is met. The custom of printing requests to return was continued in this issue. All the paper is watermarked in the usual manner.

With this issue we take leave of the monotonous designs which for seventeen years (Mr. Nesbitt having held the contract from 1853 to 1870) had continued to appear on the envelopes, and pass on to the consideration of the varied profiles and beautiful workmanship which compel our admiration in the issue of 1870.

ISSUE VI.

COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE REAY ISSUE.

Reay.

About the middle of 1870, the contract for making stamped envelopes passed from the hands of Messrs. Nesbitt & Co. into those of Mr. Geo. H. Reay, of New York city. He at once proceeded to his work with judgment and promptitude, and, under the direction of the Government, in a short time produced a series of dies, which, for variety of design and beauty of finish, had hitherto never been equaled. As this issue marks a new epoch in stamped envelopes, it merits careful consideration under the heads already given in previous issues.

SIZES.

Of these there are nominally eight, beside newspaper wrappers. Nos. 4 and 6 being identical in size with Nos. 3 and 5 respectively, differing only in being on inferior paper and ungummed, the number of sizes is actually six, and numbered from 1 to 9 inclusive, the last number being for wrappers.

No. 1	Note,	$2\frac{3}{4}$ x $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches.
No. 2	Ordinary Letter,	3 1-16 x $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
No. 3	Full Letter,	$3\frac{3}{8}$ x $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
No. 4	Full Letter,	$3\frac{3}{8}$ x $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
No. 5	Extra Letter,	$3\frac{1}{2}$ x $6\frac{3}{8}$ inches.
No. 6	Extra Letter,	$3\frac{1}{2}$ x $6\frac{3}{8}$ inches.
No. 7	Official,	3 15-16 x $8\frac{7}{8}$ inches.
No. 8	Extra Official,	$4\frac{3}{8}$ x $10\frac{1}{4}$ inches.
No. 9	Newspaper Wrapper,	$6\frac{3}{8}$ x $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

SHAPES.

We find five shapes in this issue, O, P, Q, R and S, which, while resembling each other, differ widely from those of any previous issue; the main point of difference being in the shape of the upper edge of the side-flap, which is brought nearer to the upper or gummed flap, so as to afford more complete protection to the enclosure. In lettering the shapes of this issue, we have for the first time departed from the letters of Mr. Freeman, which, for the sake of lucidness, we have hitherto followed and have added fresh engravings which were needful. Here for the last time we meet the ruled or patent-lined envelope (shape S), and for the first time encounter the blue-lined, ruled on the outer face of the envelope. Both these were prohibited by Act of Congress and ceased to be issued after June, 1870. The ruled envelopes of none of the issues ever found much favor with the public, people seeming to consider their use as an imputation that they could not write straight.

DIES.

Eleven dies adorn Mr. Reay's handiwork, of which there are no varieties or sub-types. The workmanship of them all is excellent, if we except the somewhat "lumpy" hair on some of the heads. The choice of subjects is judicious, the engraver's skill having ample scope on the heads chosen. The benign face and flowing hair of Franklin, the determined profile of Jackson, the calm, steadfast face of Washington, the rough, strong profile of Lincoln, the pugnacious features of Stanton, the almost womanly beauty of Jefferson, the homely face of Clay, the massive, Jove-like brow of Webster, the handsome soldier-face of Scott, the splendid head of Hamilton, and the classic outline of Perry's comely features, form a gallery of America's noblest sons fitly immortalized by art. A minute description of the dies is rendered unnecessary by the excellence of our engravings, which reproduce the values corresponding to the order of subjects above named, from one cent to ninety.

COLORS.

The respective colors of the embossed stamps have already been given, in our table of issues, and do not need repetition. With the exception of the 10 c., Mr. Reay managed to preserve tolerable uniformity of shade, and

even in this value, the so-called black is but very dark brown, set, as Mr. Freeman remarks, four times its ordinary strength. The hue of the 6 c. has also sobered down in brilliancy since its first issue, and the pale shades of the 24 c. are due to exposure to the light. There is some slight variation in the 15 c., from orange toward lemon, and the 12 c. shows a few shades of tint. The superior quality of the colors used is self-evident from the fact that the great majority of them vary so little in proportion to the immense numbers printed.

VALUES.

On this head there is but little to say, further than to remark that the 1 c. and 10 c., are revived in this issue, and the 7 c., 15 c. and 90 c. for the first time make their appearance. The 7 c. was intended specially to pre-pay postage to Germany.

PAPER.

A much needed change was inaugurated in the matter of paper in the 1870 issue. In place of the hitherto unsettled shades of paper, three definite colors were announced and adhered to, viz.: white, amber and cream. The amber is properly straw color, and the cream is flesh or salmon. The white is always of the same quality, first, as it is called; the amber is found on three thicknesses, known as first, second and third, while the cream is of medium thickness and may be classed as second quality, except in the No. 8 envelopes, where for extra strength it is of the same thickness as the white. Nos. 4 and 6 are found on a thick, coarsely glazed paper called dark buff, but really orange, and varying somewhat in shade. The newspaper wrappers come on a strong, tough paper, made of Manila hemp, and well adapted to its purpose. They are always gummed, while Nos. 4 and 6, being intended only for printed circulars, never are. Thus then we have five papers: white, amber, cream, orange and Manila.

Another innovation was the change of watermark. In place of the plain old Roman letters, an elaborate monogram of the same capitals was substituted, as represented here:



A

Reay.

This is repeated many times, generally obliquely, in the envelope, and shows to advantage in the larger sizes. All sorts of "Special Request" envelopes are found on all the three principal colors of paper.

Reay Dies.

GENERAL ISSUE.



Reay's Series.

United States Envelopes.

21 Reay.

REFERENCE LIST ISSUE VI.					
No.	Size.	Shape.	Color.	Value.	Paper.
NOTE.					
122	No. 1 ✓	O	Green	3 c.	White
123	No. 1 ✓	O	Green	3 c.	Amber (2)
124	No. 1 ✓	O. Blue-lined	Green	3 c.	White
ORDINARY LETTER.					
125	No. 2 ✓	P	Blue	1 c.	White
126	No. 2 ✓	P	Blue	1 c.	Amber
127	No. 2 ✓	S	Blue	1 c.	White
-128	No. 2	S	Blue	1 c.	Amber
129	No. 2 ✓	P. Blue-lined	Blue	1 c.	White
-130	No. 2	P. Blue-lined	Blue	1 c.	Amber
131	No. 2 ✓	P	Brown	2 c.	White
132	No. 2 ✓	P	Brown	2 c.	Amber
-133	No. 2	S	Brown	2 c.	White
134	No. 2 ✓	S	Brown	2 c.	Amber
-135	No. 2 ✓	P	Green	3 c.	White
-136	No. 2 ✓	P	Green	3 c.	Amber
137	No. 2 ✓	P	Green	3 c.	Amber (3)
138	No. 2 ✓	P	Green	3 c.	Cream
139	No. 2 ✓	S	Green	3 c.	White
140	No. 2 ✓	S	Green	3 c.	Amber
-141	No. 2	S	Green	3 c.	Cream
142	No. 2 ✓	P. Blue-lined	Green	3 c.	White
143	No. 2 ✓	P. Blue-lined	Green	3 c.	Amber
144	No. 2 ✓	P. Blue-lined	Green	3 c.	Cream
FULL LETTER.					
-145	No. 3	P	Blue	1 c.	White
146	No. 3 ✓	P	Blue	1 c.	Amber
-147	No. 3	P	Brown	2 c.	White
148	No. 3 ✓	P	Brown	2 c.	Amber
149	No. 3 ✓	P	Brown	3 c.	White
150	No. 3 ✓	P	Green	3 c.	White
151	No. 3 ✓	P	Green	3 c.	Amber
152	No. 3 ✓	P	Green	3 c.	Amber (3)
153	No. 3 ✓	P	Green	3 c.	Cream
154	No. 3 ✓	S	Green	3 c.	White
155	No. 3 ✓	S	Green	3 c.	Amber
-156	No. 3	S	Green	3 c.	Cream
-157	No. 3	P. Blue-lined	Green	3 c.	White
-158	No. 3	P. Blue-lined	Green	3 c.	Amber
159	No. 3 ✓	P. Blue-lined	Green	3 c.	Cream
160	No. 3 ✓	P	Red	6 c.	White

Reay.

22 *Reay's United States Envelopes.*

<i>No.</i>	<i>Size.</i>	<i>Shape.</i>	<i>Color.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Paper.</i>
161	No. 3 ✓	P	Red	6 c.	Amber
162	No. 3	P	Red	6 c.	Amber (3)
163	No. 3 ✓	P	Red	6 c.	Cream
164	No. 3 ✓	P	Vermilion	7 c.	Amber (3)
165	No. 3 ✓	P	Chocolate	10 c.	White
166	No. 3 ✓	P	Chocolate	10 c.	Amber
UNGUMMED.					
167	No. 4 ✓	P	Blue	1 c.	Orange
168	No. 4 ✓	P	Brown	2 c.	Orange
EXTRA LETTER.					
169	No. 5 ✓	Q	Green	3 c.	White
170	No. 5 ✓	Q	Green	3 c.	Amber
171	No. 5 ✓	Q	Green	3 c.	Amber (3)
172	No. 5 ✓	Q	Green	3 c.	Cream
173	No. 5 ✓	S	Green	3 c.	White
174	No. 5 ✓	S	Green	3 c.	Amber
175	No. 5 ✓	S	Green	3 c.	Cream
176	No. 5	Q. Blue-lined	Green	3 c.	White
177	No. 5	Q. Blue-lined	Green	3 c.	Amber
178	No. 5 ✓	Q. Blue-lined	Green	3 c.	Cream
179	No. 5 ✓	Q	Red	6 c.	White
180	No. 5 ✓	Q	Red	6 c.	Amber
181	No. 5 ✓	Q	Red	6 c.	Amber (3)
182	No. 5 ✓	Q	Red	6 c.	Cream
UNGUMMED.					
183	No. 6 ✓	Q	Blue	1 c.	Orange
184	No. 6 ✓	Q	Brown	2 c.	Orange
OFFICIAL.					
185	No. 7 ✓	R	Green	3 c.	White
186	No. 7 ✓	R	Green	3 c.	Cream
187	No. 7 ✓	R	Red	6 c.	White
188	No. 7 ✓	R	Red	6 c.	Amber
189	No. 7 ✓	R	Red	6 c.	Cream
190	No. 7 ✓	R	Purple	12 c.	White
191	No. 7 ✓	R	Purple	12 c.	Amber
192	No. 7 ✓	R	Purple	12 c.	Cream
193	No. 7 ✓	R	Yellow	15 c.	White
194	No. 7 ✓	R	Yellow	15 c.	Amber
195	No. 7 ✓	R	Yellow	15 c.	Cream
196	No. 7 ✓	R	Lilac	24 c.	White
197	No. 7 ✓	R	Lilac	24 c.	Amber

No.	Size.	Shape.	Color.	Value.	Paper.
198 ✓	No. 7 ✓	R	Lilac	24 c.	Cream
199 ✓	No. 7	R	Black	30 c.	White
200 ✓	No. 7	R	Black	30 c.	Amber
201 ✓	No. 7	R	Black	30 c.	Cream
202 ✓	No. 7	R	Carmino	90 c.	White
203 ✓	No. 7	R	Carmino	90 c.	Amber
204 ✓	No. 7	R	Carmino	90 c.	Cream

EXTRA OFFICIAL.

205 ✓	No. 8	R	Red	6 c.	White
206 ✓	No. 8	R	Red	6 c.	Cream (1)
207 ✓	No. 8	R	Purple	12 c.	White
208 ✓	No. 8	R	Purple	12 c.	Cream (1)
209 ✓	No. 8	R	Yellow	15 c.	White
210 ✓	No. 8	R	Yellow	15 c.	Cream (1)
211 ✓	No. 8	R	Lilac	24 c.	White
212 ✓	No. 8	R	Lilac	24 c.	Cream (1)
213 ✓	No. 8	R	Black	30 c.	White
214 ✓	No. 8	R	Black	30 c.	Cream (1)
215 ✓	No. 8	R	Carmino	90 c.	White
216 ✓	No. 8	R	Carmino	90 c.	Cream (1)

NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS.

217 ✓	No. 9 ✓	Rectangle	Blue	1 c.	Manila
218 ✓	No. 9 ✓	Rectangle	Brown	2 c.	Manila

CLOSING NOTES.

It should be borne in mind that, in the foregoing list, amber is always thick, or 1st quality, unless otherwise numbered under the heading of "Paper." Likewise, cream is always thin, or second quality, except where the number (1) is appended to indicate a thicker quality. The white paper is always of fine, strong, clear fibre, and first quality. The ruled and blue-lined envelopes are now all exceedingly scarce, owing to their brief existence. In fact, it is doubtful whether Nos. 128 and 133 were ever issued for use to the public. So with Nos. 145 and 147, which exist, but are practically unattainable. Two other very rare envelopes are Nos. 149 and 185, the former being an error of impression, though a *bona fide* envelope. The writer knows of but six in existence. No. 185 does not appear to have ever got into general use, and hence is now one of the rarest of the issue. With few exceptions, the cream envelopes are all becoming difficult to obtain. There is a deep, reddish shade of this paper which the author has on No. 172, which is rare.

The amateur need have but little trouble in deciding on the difference between first and third amber. A very little practice in feeling the upper, or gummed, flap will enable him to detect the variety in thickness. It is well

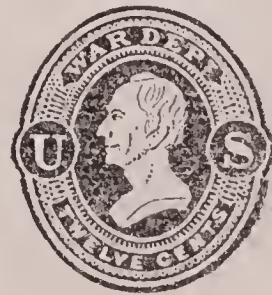
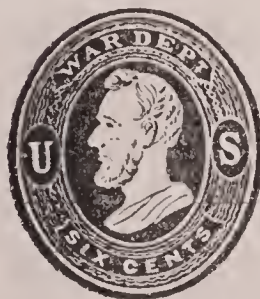
Reay.

known that the 7 c. was only issued on third quality amber, though it was announced at one time that it was found on white. Cut specimens may be found with the amber paper artificially changed to white. The 10 c. was never issued on cream, nor the 3 c. official size on amber.

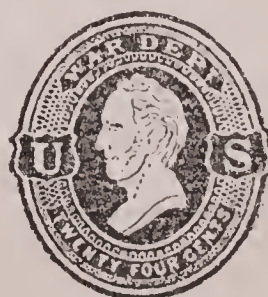
Reay Series of.

WAR DEPARTMENT ENVELOPES.

It is difficult to see why the War Department should have had stamped envelopes made specially for its use, other than perhaps wrappers for the Signal Service reports, when the Treasury Department, with its almost countless ramifications and vast correspondence, used only adhesives. Whatever the reason, they were made and used, conforming in size, shape, values and paper to the general issue. The disc of the dies is also the same, the frame being changed in the manner shown in our engravings. The color is always red, varying from brilliant scarlet to dull brick in the lower values. The envelopes appeared first about the middle of 1873 and continued coming up to the time of Mr. Reay's relinquishing the contract.



Error
Right die
is on
p. 52.



Plimpton die.

See finis. for Reay's.

REFERENCE LIST WAR DEPARTMENT ENVELOPES. ISSUE 1873.

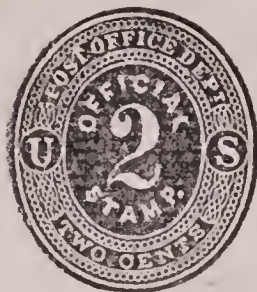
Reay.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Size.</i>	<i>Shape.</i>	<i>Color.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Paper.</i>
219	Ordinary Letter ✓	P	Red	1 c.	White
220	Ordinary Letter ✓	P	Red	2 c.	White
221	Ordinary Letter ✓	P	Red	3 c.	White
222	Full Letter ✓	P	Red	3 c.	White
223	Full Letter ✓	P	Red	3 c.	Amber (3)
224	Full Letter ✓	P	Red	3 c.	Cream
225	Extra Letter ✓	Q	Red	3 c.	White
226	Extra Letter	Q	Red	3 c.	Amber (3)
227	Extra Letter	Q	Red	3 c.	Cream
228	Extra Letter ✓	Q	Red	6 c.	White
229	Official ✓	R	Red	3 c.	White
230	Official ✓	R	Red	3 c.	Cream
231	Official ✓	R	Red	6 c.	White
232	Official ✓	R	Red	6 c.	Cream
233	Official ✓	R	Red	10 c.	White
234	Official ✓	R	Red	12 c.	White
235	Official ✓	R	Red	15 c.	White
236	Official ✓	R	Red	30 c.	White
237	Extra Official ✓	R	Red	6 c.	White
238	Extra Official ✓	R	Red	12 c.	White
239	Extra Official ✓	R	Red	15 c.	White
240	Extra Official ✓	R	Red	24 c.	White
241	Extra Official ✓	R	Red	30 c.	White
242	Wrappers ✓	Rectangle	Red	1 c.	Manila
243	Wrappers ✓	Rectangle	Red	2 c.	Manila

The collector will notice the fewness of amber and cream envelopes, owing, perhaps, to the fact of the emission never being completed or to the preference for white paper. The amber is third quality, the cream second, the white always first. The watermark is the same as in the regular issue.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT ENVELOPES.

Not to be behind their neighbors of the War Office, the Post Office authorities in 1873 devised and issued for their own use a set of envelopes, limited to three values and four sizes, as a facility in the incessant correspondence of the Department. The values are 2 c., 3 c. and 6 c.; the sizes Full Letter, Extra Letter, Official and Extra Official, numbered by the Department respectively, 1, 2, 3 and 4. The dies are very neatly executed, and, as will be seen by our engravings, fully worthy to keep company with the rest of the 1870 issue. The paper is always a fine, strong 1st quality fibre of a bright canary or yellow color. Any envelopes of this issue on white paper are doubtless essays or due to whims of the workmen.

Reay.

REFERENCE LIST POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT ENVELOPES. ISSUE 1873.

No.	Size.	Shape.	Color.	Value.	Paper.
244	Full Letter	P	Black	2 c.	Canary
245	Full Letter	P	Black	3 c.	Canary
246	Full Letter	P	Black	6 c.	Canary
247	Extra Letter	Q	Black	2 c.	Canary
248	Extra Letter	Q	Black	3 c.	Canary
249	Extra Letter	Q	Black	6 c.	Canary
250	Official	R	Black	2 c.	Canary
251	Official	R	Black	3 c.	Canary
252	Official	R	Black	6 c.	Canary
253	Extra Official	R	Black	3 c.	Canary
254	Extra Official	R	Black	6 c.	Canary

It does not appear that No. 246 was ever in actual circulation, or that it exists except with the surcharge "Specimen." No. 253 was certainly issued and probably used, but is almost unknown. The first three sizes come in four styles, viz.; plain, except for the caution in lower left-hand corner; with three dotted lines for address, county and state; with the word "Postmaster" to left of upper dotted line, and word "County" to right of second line; and with address of various Department officers printed in full. The name of these last is legion. The words "Money Order Business" and "Registered Business" are also printed in upper left-hand corner. In addition to the above, the Department used in 1873 and 1874 an Extra Letter size envelope, on amber paper, watermarked U. S. P. O. D. but unstamped, for the return, free, of letters from the Dead Letter office.

All the canary paper bears the 1870 monogram.

ISSUE VII.

BETTER KNOWN AS THE PLIMPTON ISSUE.

The Government contract with Mr. Reay for the manufacture of stamped envelopes, made according to custom for the period of four years, having expired in 1874, the Post Office authorities invited bids for a fresh contract, and the successful firm was the Plimpton Manufacturing Com-

Plimpton.

pany, of Hartford, Connecticut. The authorities having decided to make no change in the dies, and the former contractors having declined to give up those used in the last contract, the Plimpton Company was directed to prepare dies precisely similar. From a number of causes, they were unable to procure the services of first-class die-sinkers, and the result was the production of the four poorly engraved dies of the 1 c., 2 c., 3 c. and 10 c. values, which signalized the year 1874. The Government, however, having granted them an extension of time, they were enabled to produce an assortment of dies far surpassing anything previously issued by this or any other government. In variety of dies, of paper, and minor points of interest, also, this issue invites our careful and minute study.

SIZES.

These do not vary from those of the Reay issue, to the table of sizes in which we refer the collector. A new size was, however, introduced early in 1875, midway between Full Letter and Extra Letter, making seven sizes in all, beside the newspaper wrappers, which also correspond with those of the Reay issue. The new size is known as

No. 4½. Commercial. 3½ in. by 5½.

Nos. 4 and 6 also correspond respectively as before with Nos. 3 and 5.

SHAPES.

In the envelopes made with the 1874 dies, an evident attempt was made to adhere strictly to the shapes used in the previous issue. Hence the shapes of Note, Ordinary Letter, the first issue of Full Letter, the first issue of Extra Letter, and Official, are as nearly identical with the corresponding ones of the Reay issue as they can possibly be. The same is true of the first part of the second emission of Full and Extra Letter, *i. e.*, that some of the first specimens of envelopes stamped from the later dies more nearly resemble the Reay shapes than those now in use. In Full Letter this difference in shape is so marked that we have had new engravings made to show the difference between the early and the later flaps—shapes T and U. A moment's observation will show the two points of difference: in T, the early shape, the side flaps come higher, nearly touching the upper or gummed flap, and the flap itself is pointed, while in U, the later shape, the side flaps slope away and the upper flap is rounded. These two shapes run through Full Letter, except in the 5 c. values, which are always U, and are observable in Extra Letter. Commercial being a later issue, is always found on U. By Full Letter we mean, of course, Nos. 3 and 4, and by Extra Letter, Nos. 5 and 6. Some variations in shape may be found, but they are trifling, and a careful examination of our Reference List will show that T, or the pointed flap, gradually gave way to U, or round flap, and that the latter is the distinguishing shape of this issue. The Extra Official size shows the same point of difference from the Reay's—the flap being slightly rounder.

DIES.

Although the experienced collector will have no difficulty in distinguishing the Plimpton dies from those of the Reay issue, we deem it best to call attention to some of the leading points of difference between the two:

ONE CENT.

Of this value there were two dies prepared, one in 1874, the other in 1875, which we designate as A and B. In Die A, the head is placed upright in the die with chin well up, and the back of the bust nearly touches the oval; in "O" of "Postage" there is sometimes a dot and sometimes none, the lettering is poor and thin, and the engine-work in border poorly done. In Die B, the head is inclined forward, with a deep space toward the throat; the neck-cloth slopes upward; in the "O" of "Postage" are fine lines; the lettering is broad and clear, and the engine-work clean and distinct. The hair is also more massive and wavy than in A.

In the Reay die the hair is lumpy and straight; the nose pointed; the hair continuous at the back with the bust. There is more of the ear visible, and Franklin has a double chin.

TWO CENTS.

Three dies here claim our attention, lettered respectively A, B, and C. Die A is perhaps the worst piece of work that ever appeared on a United States envelope. The face blurred and indistinct, the hair pushed back in short, thick lumps, the lettering weak and thin, and the engine-work wretched. The "P" of "Postage" is particularly bad, and the periods after "U" and "S" are often impossible to find. In Die B, the head apparently leans forward, the hair is brushed straight up from the forehead, the mouth is small and the chin projects slightly. The figures "2" at the sides are in ovals. The lettering is not good, the "E" of "Cents" being very poor, and the periods between "U" and "S" are hardly ever clear. The engine-work is often poor and blotchy. Die C, which is the one finally accepted by the Government, is very much superior. The hair over the forehead leans slightly forward, the mouth is larger and shut tight, and the wrinkles in the cheeks behind it are very marked. There is more of the ear visible, and the muscles of the neck are well defined. The lettering is broad and firm, the periods square, and the engine-work beautifully done. The figures "2" are much shorter. There is an amusing variety of this die in which the nose has a bloated, dissipated look, giving "Old Hickory" a disreputable appearance.

In the Reay die, the figures "2" are in circles, and Jackson's mouth is slightly open. The Plimpton dies all have the mouth closed. The nose and chin are also much more pointed.

THREE CENTS.

Here again we have two dies, A and B. In A, the top of the head is pointed, the nose aquiline, the mouth small and weak. The figures "3" in

ovals at sides look top heavy, the lettering is poor and thin, and the engine-work faulty. Die B has a broader head, a more upright forehead, a strong, pointed Roman nose, a well-defined chin, and a deep groove in the drapery exactly in front of the peruke-ribbon. Die A has no such groove.

The Reay die has hair curled upward from the ears, a very long peruke, a thin, pointed nose, and the figures "3" in circles at sides. The Plimpton dies have the "3" in ovals.

FIVE CENTS.

A reference to our engraving will suffice for a clear idea of this handsome die. The only difference is in the shape of the "5" in ovals at sides, which in the later die, as shown in the engraving, has a high-shouldered look. The engine-work is particularly fine.

SIX CENTS.

In this die the hair of Lincoln falls forward, making a hook over his forehead, the nose and ear are large, and the under lip protrudes.

The Reay die has the hair in a mass over the forehead, the nose is smaller, the side-hair lumpy and the beard begins about the middle of the ear. The neck is longer and thinner, and the muscle in neck well marked.

SEVEN CENTS.

The workmanship on the hair and beard of Stanton is very fine and the ear small. The figure "7" on solid circle at sides ends in a sharp curve to the right.

In the Reay die the beard is lumpy and the ear large. There is no curve on the figure "7."

TEN CENTS.

Of this there are two dies, A and B. A, which is appropriately called the "booby-head," is a singular looking affair. The head fills up almost the entire disc, the neck is massive and bull-like, the lettering and figures miserable, and the engine-work very poor. Die B, however, is a gem in its way. The head and hair are beautifully done, the entire ear shows, and the peruke stands boldly out behind.

The Reay die has lumpy hair, the upper part of front of ear is hidden, and the peruke ends in a line with the bust. The figures "10" are much thinner than in Die B of the Plimpton issue.

TWELVE CENTS.

The head of Clay is round, the hair well done, the entire ear visible, the chin round and the neck well done.

In the Reay die, the head is long, the hair arranged in two or three curious coils, the front part of ear hidden, the chin pointed, the neck thin. The whole affair has a weazened, skinny look.

FIFTEEN CENTS.

Webster's hair is straight and parted. The eyebrow overhangs the left eye. There are no whiskers.

The Reay die has the hair falling in wavy lines, there is no parting, no eyebrow visible, and there is a small whisker in front of the ear. The neck from chin to clavicle is singularly straight, giving a thick, clumsy look.

TWENTY-FOUR CENTS.

The hair is neatly parted, the eyebrow distinct, the chin well marked, the nose aquiline and a little hooked at the end. The cartilage in the throat is not visible. The border of the engine-work consists of dots.

In the Reay die, the parting of the hair is only partial, there is no eyebrow, the chin slopes weakly into the throat, and the nose is thick and decidedly Hebraic. The old General also has a lump in his throat. The border of the engine-work consists of square loops.

THIRTY CENTS.

The hair is short and crisp, the nose aquiline and well-formed, and the lower back part of bust broad. The oblong octagons containing figures "30" at sides are not set straight.

The Reay head has lumpy hair, a sort of frown on the brow, the chin runs into the neck at a sharp angle, and the lower back part of bust is sharp and pointed. The octagons at sides are exactly parallel.

NINETY CENTS.

This is a very close imitation of the Reay die. The Commodore's hair projects slightly over his forehead, the nose is prominent and pointed, and his back hair is apparently blown forward. The front point of the bust is blunt.

The Reay head has the front hair even with the forehead, the nose somewhat flat, and the hair lumpy. The side whisker comes farther forward and the front part of the bust ends in a sharp point.

There are many sub-varieties of the early dies of the 1 c., 2 c. and 3 c., due to retouching. The writer has found seven or eight of the 1 c. Die A, as many of the 2 c. Die B, and as many as fifteen or sixteen of the 3 c. Die A. They are of no philatelic importance. Die B of the 3 c. begins to show signs of wear, as evinced by the running in of color on the embossed head, the vague look of the hair and features, and the blurring of the engine-work. The same is true of Die B 1 c. and in a less degree of Die C 2 c. There is often a curious ring around the heads of Die A 3 c. and 10 c., especially the latter, due, doubtless, to imperfect striking.

The writer chanced upon a box of fancy writing paper at a stationery store, the sheets and envelopes of which were adorned with embossed heads of Franklin, Washington, Jefferson and Adams. The first two were identi-

cal, line for line, with the Government dies (B of both values, 1 c. and 3 c.), yet the post office authorities, when questioned, said they were made by them for a private firm in imitation of the regular dies. If so it is the most marvellous achievement ever accomplished in imitative engraving.

As the new dies were adopted the old ones were thrown aside, and envelopes made from these became rare. Among those obsolete made from the later dies are the 6 c. and 10 c. (both dies), Full Letter, as also the ungummed 2 c. Die B on Nos. 4 and 6, and the 15 c., 30 c. and 90 c. on Official Size. The 7 c. on Full Letter and both sizes of 12 c. and 24 c. became obsolete about the end of 1877. A very curious circumstance in connection with Die A of both 1 c. and 2 c. occurred about the same time. These long unused dies were suddenly resuscitated, and ungummed orange envelopes, No. 4, were put on sale at Philadelphia, New York and Boston, bearing the 1 c. Die A, while newspaper wrappers bearing Die A of the 2 c. in *red* began to appear in the mails. No satisfactory explanation was ever given, and the mysterious strangers disappeared as suddenly as they had come. While these are but two of the many surprises to which the Plimpton Company has treated collectors, it would be gratifying to know why they should put in use a die like Die A 2 c., which is anything but a desirable advertisement for the firm from which it emanates.

COLORS.

No change was made in the colors of the Reay dies except the alteration of the 2 c. from brown to vermilion, to distinguish it from the 10 c., the same change having been previously made in the adhesive. A most interesting series of shades is, however, observable in the blue of the 1 c. Die A is always deep blue, in which color also the early emissions of Die B were issued. As soon, however, as the 5 c. value was established, its color being a bright indigo blue, a change set in in the 1 c. Its deep dark blue grew gradually lighter until it culminated in the dull washy hue found on the ungummed orange envelopes Nos. 4 and 6. The reprints are of the same dull color, which, in some specimens, actually takes a greenish tinge, doubtless from the paper. Hence dark blue may be called the proper color of the earlier issues of the 1 c. and light blue that of the later. Of the brown 2 c., which is found on all three dies, there are many shades of color, Die B showing perhaps the greatest variety. The color to which this value was changed is a brilliant vermilion, very much like the now obsolete 7 c. The green 3 c. shows few shades, there being, however, one very pale tint of it on an Extra Letter, amber, Die B. The 5 c. appears always in a deep rich blue. The 6 c., like its ancestor of Issue VI, shows many tints of red. The 7 c. was vermilion, running somewhat pale at times, noticeably on the rare 1st quality amber. The color of Die A of the 10 c. value was a rich chocolate, running to deep brown; that of Die B generally dark brown, showing sometimes very dark. The writer has a pair of Full Letter 10 c., white and amber, Die B, which are nearly as dark as the so-called black

10 c. of Issue VI. The 12 c. varied little in its peculiar shade, which we have called purple in lieu of a better name. The 15 c. varies considerably from deep orange, which was probably the earlier hue, to pale lemon, found oftenest on Extra Official. The bright lilac of the 24 c. showed little variation during its brief term of use, not having faded so much as its predecessor. The 30 c. is always a deep, lustrous black. The rich carmine of the 90 c. ends most handsomely the brilliant tints of this interesting issue, and shows to advantage on the white and amber paper alike.

VALUES.

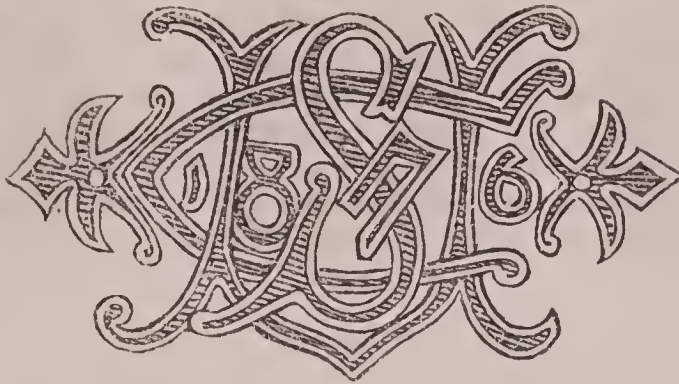
To the eleven values of the previous issue, one was added when the uniform rate of 5 c. per half ounce was adopted by the International Postal Union, the new one being of course 5 c. Shortly afterwards, the 7 c., 12 c. and 24 c. became obsolete, reducing the number of values from twelve to nine, at which it now remains. On the later schedules of the Department, also, the 2 c. on orange is not found in either Nos. 4 or 6. The 10 c. was introduced in the new size, No. 4½, or Commercial, and in No. 7, Official, on white and amber. The 15 c., 30 c. and 90 c. became obsolete on No. 7, early in 1877, and obsolete in amber also on No. 8. The three fawn colored envelopes, viz.: 2 c. and 3 c., No. 4½, and 3 c., No. 7, enjoyed but a brief existence, but are revived again in Issue VIII. The 6 c. value was never issued on blue paper, and the writer is strongly of the opinion that at least three envelopes, viz.: 3 c. Die A on Note size, amber, 6 c. on Full Letter, cream, and 6 c. on Extra Letter, cream, were never issued to the public.

PAPER.

This issue shows no less than seven different kinds of paper: white, amber, cream, fawn, blue, orange and manila. The white is always first quality, though of a slightly coarser texture on the early dies; the amber is found on first, second and third; the cream on second and third; the fawn on second; the blue on third. The orange is a thick, coarse paper, varying greatly in shade, from brown to pale yellow, and the manila shows also a great difference in quality and color, some of the newspaper wrappers being a fine light straw and others a much poorer fibre. Taken as a whole, the paper of the entire issue is of a superior quality to that of previous ones.

WATERMARKS.

In addition to the well-known monogram of the Department, which we shall hereafter allude to as A, two new watermarks are found in this issue, one of which was called into existence by the Centennial, the other in 1877 by the furnishing of a fresh set of envelopes for use by the Post Office Department. The first of these we designate as B, the second as C, and present illustrations herewith:



B



C

As will be seen by the Reference List, both these watermarks found their way into the paper of the general issue, though not originally designed to do so. B is found even in the envelopes of the War Department, fuller explanation of these irregularities being given elsewhere. A, of course, is the regular watermark, common to all papers; B is found on all the seven sizes of white envelopes; C, so far as known, is found only on a single specimen, 3 c., Full Letter, amber.

DIES OF THE FOUR VALUES ISSUED IN 1874.



Die A.



Die A.

34 *Plimpton* United States Envelopes.

Plimpton.



Die B



Die A



Die A

DIES OF THE ISSUE OF 1875. ISSUE VII.



Die B



Die C



Die B



Die A



Die B





REFERENCE LIST ISSUE VII.

No.	Size.	Shape.	Die.	Color.	Value.	Paper.	Wmk.
NOTE.							
255	No. 1✓	O	A	Green	3 c.	White	A
256	No. 1	O	A	Green	3 c.	Amber (2)	A
257	No. 1✓	O	B	Green	3 c.	White	A
258	No. 1✓	O	B	Green	3 c.	White	B.
259	No. 1	O	B	Green	3 c.	Amber (2)	A

ORDINARY LETTER.

260	No. 2✓	P	A	Blue	1 c.	White	A
261	No. 2✓	P	A	Blue	1 c.	Amber	A
262	No. 2✓	P	B	Blue	1 c.	White	A
263	No. 2✓	P	B	Blue	1 c.	Amber	A
264	No. 2✓	P	A	Brown	2 c.	White	A
265	No. 2✓	P	A	Brown	2 c.	Amber	A
266	No. 2✓	P	B	Brown	2 c.	White	A
267	No. 2✓	P	B	Brown	2 c.	Amber	A
268	No. 2✓	P	C	Brown	2 c.	White	A
269	No. 2✓	P	C	Brown	2 c.	Amber	A
270	No. 2✓	P	C	Red	2 c.	White	A
271	No. 2✓	P	C	Red	2 c.	Amber	A
272	No. 2✓	P	A	Green	3 c.	White	A
273	No. 2✓	P	A	Green	3 c.	Amber	A
274	No. 2✓	P	A	Green	3 c.	Cream	A
275	No. 2✓	P	B	Green	3 c.	White	A

<i>No.</i>	<i>Size.</i>	<i>Shape.</i>	<i>Die.</i>	<i>Color.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Paper.</i>	<i>Wmk.</i>
276	No. 2	P	B	Green	3 c.	White	B
277	No. 2 ✓	P	B	Green	3 c.	Amber	A.
278	No. 2 ✓	P	B	Green	3 c.	Cream	A
279	No. 2 ✓	P	B	Green	3 c.	Blue	A

FULL LETTER.

280	No. 3 ✓	T	A	Green	3 c.	White	A
281	No. 3 ✓	T	A	Green	3 c.	Amber	A
282	No. 3 ✓	T	A	Green	3 c.	Cream	A
283	No. 3 ✓	T	B	Green	3 c.	White	A
284	No. 3	T	B	Green	3 c.	Amber	A
285	No. 3 ✓	T	B	Green	3 c.	Cream	A
286	No. 3 ✓	U	B	Green	3 c.	White	A
287	No. 3	U	B	Green	3 c.	White	B
288	No. 3	U	B	Green	3 c.	Amber	A
289	No. 3	U	B	Green	3 c.	Amber	C
290	No. 3 ✓	U	B	Green	3 c.	Cream	A
291	No. 3 ✓	U	B	Green	3 c.	Blue	A
292	No. 3 ✓	U	A	Blue	5 c.	White	A
293	No. 3 ✓	U	A	Blue	5 c.	Amber	A
294	No. 3 ✓	U	A	Blue	5 c.	Blue	A
295	No. 3 ✓	T		Red	6 c.	White	A
296	No. 3 ✓	T		Red	6 c.	Amber	A
297	No. 3	T		Red	6 c.	Cream	A
298	No. 3	U		Red	6 c.	White	A
299	No. 3	U		Red	6 c.	Amber	A
300	No. 3	U		Red	6 c.	Cream	A
301	No. 3	T		Vermillion	7 c.	Amber	A
302	No. 3	T		Vermillion	7 c.	Amber (3)	A
303	No. 3	U		Vermillion	7 c.	Amber (3)	A
304	No. 3	T	A	Chocolate	10 c.	White	A
305	No. 3 ✓	T	A	Chocolate	10 c.	Amber	A
306	No. 3 ✓	U	A	Chocolate	10 c.	White	A
307	No. 3	U	A	Chocolate	10 c.	Amber	A
308	No. 3	U	B	Chocolate	10 c.	White	A
309	No. 3	U	B	Chocolate	10 c.	Amber	A

FULL LETTER—UNGUMMED.

310	No. 4 ✓	T	A	Blue	1 c.	Orange	A
311	No. 4	T	B	Dark blue	1 c.	Orange	A
312	No. 4	U	B	Dark blue	1 c.	Orange	A
313	No. 4	U	B	Light blue	1 c.	Orange	A
314	No. 4 ✓	U	A	Light blue	1 c.	Orange	A
315	No. 4	T	A	Brown	2 c.	Orange	A
316	No. 4	U	B	Brown	2 c.	Orange	A

No.	Size.	Shape.	Dis.	Color.	Value.	Paper.	Wmk.
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COMMERCIAL.

317	No. 4½	Q	A	Brown	2 c.	Cream	A
318	No. 4½✓	Q	C	Red	2 c.	Fawn	A
319	No. 4½✓	Q	C	Red	2 c.	Cream	A
320	No. 4½✓	Q	B	Green	3 c.	White	A
321	No. 4½✓	Q	B	Green	3 c.	White	B
322	No. 4½✓	Q	B	Green	3 c.	Amber	A
323	No. 4½✓	Q	B	Green	3 c.	Cream	A
324	No. 4½✓	Q	B	Green	3 c.	Fawn	A
325	No. 4½✓	Q	B	Green	3 c.	Blue	A
326	No. 4½✓	Q	B	Blue	5 c.	White	A
327	No. 4½✓	Q	B	Blue	5 c.	Amber	A
328	No. 4½✓	Q	A	Blue	5 c.	Blue	A
329	No. 4½✓	Q		Red	6 c.	White	A
330	No. 4½✓	Q		Red	6 c.	Amber	A
331	No. 4½✓	Q		Red	6 c.	Cream	A
332	No. 4½✓	Q	B	Chocolate	10 c.	White	A
333	No. 4½✓	Q	B	Chocolate	10 c.	Amber	A

EXTRA LETTER.

334	No. 5✓	T	A	Green	3 c.	White	A
335	No. 5✓	T	A	Green	3 c.	Amber	A
336	No. 5	T	A	Green	3 c.	Cream	A
337	No. 5✓	U	B	Green	3 c.	White	A
338	No. 5✓	U	B	Green	3 c.	White	B
339	No. 5✓	U	B	Green	3 c.	Amber	A
340	No. 5✓	U	B	Green	3 c.	Cream	A
341	No. 5✓	U	B	Green	3 c.	Blue	A
342	No. 5	T		Red	6 c.	White	A
343	No. 5✓	T		Red	6 c.	Amber	A
344	No. 5	T		Red	6 c.	Cream	A
345	No. 5✓	U		Red	6 c.	White	A
346	No. 5✓	U		Red	6 c.	Amber	A
347	No. 5	U		Red	6 c.	Cream	A

EXTRA LETTER—UNGUMMED.

348	No. 6✓	T	A	Blue	1 c.	Orange	A
349	No. 6	T	B	Dark blue	1 c.	Orange	A
350	No. 6✓	U	B	Dark blue	1 c.	Orange	A
351	No. 6✓	U	B	Light blue	1 c.	Orange	A
352	No. 6✓	U	B	Brown	2 c.	Orange	A

OFFICIAL.

353	No. 7✓	R	A	Green	3 c.	Cream	A
354	No. 7	R	B	Green	3 c.	Cream	A

No.	Size.	Shape.	Die.	Color.	Value.	Paper.	Wmk.
355	No. 7✓	R	B	Green	3 c.	Fawn	A
356	No. 7✓	R	A	Blue	5 c.	Cream	A
357	No. 7✓	R		Red	6 c.	White	A
358	No. 7	R		Red	6 c.	White	B
359	No. 7	R		Red	6 c.	Amber	A
360	No. 7✓	R		Red	6 c.	Cream	A
361	No. 7✓	R	B	Chocolate	10 c.	White	A
362	No. 7✓	R	B	Chocolate	10 c.	Amber	A
363	No. 7✓	R		Purple	12 c.	White	A
364	No. 7✓	R		Purple	12 c.	Amber	A
365	No. 7✓	R		Purple	12 c.	Cream	A
366	No. 7✓	R		Orange	15 c.	White	A
367	No. 7✓	R		Orange	15 c.	Amber	A
368	No. 7✓	R		Orange	15 c.	Cream	A
369	No. 7✓	R		Lilac	24 c.	White	A
370	No. 7✓	R		Lilac	24 c.	Amber	A
371	No. 7✓	R		Lilac	24 c.	Cream	A
372	No. 7✓	R		Black	30 c.	White	A
373	No. 7✓	R		Black	30 c.	Amber	A
374	No. 7✓	R		Black	30 c.	Cream	A
375	No. 7✓	R		Carmine	90 c.	White	A
376	No. 7✓	R		Carmine	90 c.	Amber	A
377	No. 7✓	R		Carmine	90 c.	Cream	A

EXTRA OFFICIAL.

378	No. 8✓	R		Red	6 c.	White	A
379	No. 8✓	R	used,	Red	6 c.	White	B
380	No. 8✓	R		Red	6 c.	Amber	A
381	No. 8✓	R		Purple	12 c.	White	A
382	No. 8✓	R		Purple	12 c.	Amber	A
383	No. 8✓	R		Orange	15 c.	White	A
384	No. 8✓	R		Orange	15 c.	Amber	A
385	No. 8	R		Lilac	24 c.	White	A
386	No. 8✓	R		Lilac	24 c.	Amber	A
387	No. 8✓	R		Black	30 c.	White	A
388	No. 8✓	R		Black	30 c.	Amber	A
389	No. 8✓	R		Carmine	90 c.	White	A
390	No. 8✓	R		Carmine	90 c.	Amber	A

NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS.

391	No. 9	Rect.	A	Blue	1 c.	Manila	A
392	No. 9	Rect.	B	Dark blue	1 c.	Manila	A
393	No. 9	Rect.	B	Light blue	1 c.	Manila	A
394	No. 9	Rect.	A	Brown	2 c.	Manila	A

No.	Size.	Shape.	Die.	Color.	Value.	Paper.	Wmk.
395	No. 9 ✓	Rect.	A	Red	2 c.	Manila	A
396	No. 9 ✓	Rect.	B	Brown	2 c.	Manila	A
397	No. 9 ✓	Rect.	C	Brown	2 c.	Manila	A
398	No. 9 ✓	Rect.	C	Red	2 c.	Manila	A

In addition to the above, which I believe to be a complete list of the envelopes of this issue, a number were gotten up for the set on exhibition in the Government Building at the Centennial. Quite possibly some of these got out and into circulation, as several sets of many of them were prepared, and in view of this I append a list of all the known varieties, premising that in every case where amber paper is mentioned, it is invariably *third quality*. The 7c, No. 3, on third amber, is not included, as it is a legitimate envelope, and I have so catalogued it.

ENVELOPES WHICH WERE PROBABLY PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR THE
CENTENNIAL.

	No.	Size.	Shape.	Die.	Color.	Value.	Paper.	Wmk.
Ordinary letter	399	No. 2 <i>ordl.</i>	P	A	Green	3 c.	Amber (3)	A
	400	No. 2	P	B	Green	3 c.	Amber (3)	A
Full letter	401	No. 3 <i>Full.</i>	T	A	Green	3 c.	Amber (3)	A
	402	No. 3	T	B	Green	3 c.	Amber (3)	A
	403	No. 3	T		Red	6 c.	Amber (3)	A
Do. unguaranteed	404	No. 4 c.	T	C	Brown	2 c.	Orange	A
	405	No. 4 "	T	C	Red	2 c.	Orange	A
Extra letter	406	No. 5 <i>Extra.</i>	U	A	Green	3 c.	Amber (3)	A
	407	No. 5	U	B	Green	3 c.	Amber (3)	A
	408	No. 5	U		Red	6 c.	Amber (3)	A
Do. no guarantee	409	No. 6	U	A	Brown	2 c.	Orange	A
	410	No. 6	U	C	Brown	2 c.	Orange	A
	411	No. 6	U	C	Red	2 c.	Orange	A
Extra official	412	No. 8	R		Red	6 c.	Cream	A
	413	No. 8	R		Purple	12 c.	Cream	A
	414	No. 8	R		Orange	15 c.	Cream	A
	415	No. 8	R		Lilac	24 c.	Cream	A
	416	No. 8	R		Black	30 c.	Cream	A
	417	No. 8	R		Carminc	90 c.	Cream	A

CLOSING NOTES.

As mentioned before, I look on Nos. 256, 297 and 344 with great disfavor, but have given them the benefit of the doubt. No. 259 had a very brief existence and is now very rare. It is more than likely that the second quality amber of this and No. 256 are both due to the Centennial. No. 285 I have never seen, but it doubtless exists, as neither 283 nor 284 are very scarce. No. 289 is a genuine oddity, and no doubt an accident.

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No. 296 was on sale for a brief time at the New York Post Office, but is now very difficult to obtain. Nos. 298, 299 and 300 I have never seen, but there is reason to think that the first two at least exist. The same remark applies to No. 302. The collector will note the fact of No. 311 on pointed flap (shape T). Of No. 313 there are almost innumerable shades, both of die and paper. No. 314 is of course the reprint alluded to before. Its orange paper is of three distinct and separate shades. I have chronicled No. 315 on the authority of information from a trustworthy source that this envelope was for a brief time on sale at the Post Office at Pottsville, Pa. Apart from this, my opinion is against it. No. 317 is a mystery—it exists, but unless coming into being when No. 395 did, and from the same reason, cannot well be accounted for. No. 336 has become quite rare. Of No. 351 there are as many varieties as of No. 313. There is a very distinct shade of paper of No. 354, the cream being of a marked reddish tinge, confined, I think, to the earlier issues. No. 355 is one of the very rarest envelopes of this issue. I have heard that copies of it passed the post, but have never seen one post-marked. The Government rejected fawn in favor of cream in every case, and if it ever had an existence it must have been exceedingly brief. From No. 363 to 377, inclusive, all are obsolete and rapidly becoming rare. The dies, from being comparatively little used, are all remarkably clear.

The use of the specially prepared paper intended for the Centennial envelopes only, but found running through the seven sizes of the general issue, is not to be wondered at. The Plimpton Company having doubtless a large stock of it on hand at the end of 1876, preferred using to wasting it, and so employed it for all sizes of envelopes issued on white paper. As seen by the Reference List, it is always found with the 3 c. value stamped on it, except on Official and Extra Official size, where it is used for the 6 c., the 3 c. white not existing on these two sizes. In Extra Official all are now obsolete from No. 378 to 390, inclusive, except Nos. 378, 383, 387 and 389. There are very many shades of No. 393. No. 395 is a very rare wrapper, and probably due to the using of die A while a fresh transfer was being made from die C. Nos. 397 and 398 are of course from the same die, the color being changed from brown to red when the adhesive 2 c. was similarly changed to avoid confusion with the 10 c. There is a beautiful rose shade of No. 398.

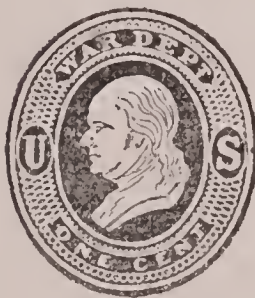
Of the envelopes numbered from 399 to 417, inclusive, all the third quality ambers are undoubtedly due to the Centennial, and exceedingly rare; the 2 c. on orange arise from the same source, and according to the officer who arranged the Government sets for the Centennial, but five sets of them exist; and the Extra Officials on cream were made for the same purpose. Due, no doubt, to the same cause are the No. 3, 3 c. die A, on white and cream, with *round* flap (shape U).

The collector will notice that die B (perhaps more properly transfer B) of the 5 c. is found only on white and amber No. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$. Curious as this is, it is like many other points about this issue, entirely inexplicable.

ENVELOPES ISSUED FOR THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

Plimpton.

Soon after receiving the contract for the manufacture of stamped envelopes, the Plimpton Company commenced the manufacture of a special set for the War Department. Like those of the preceding issue, they are made from the dies prepared for the general issue, a special border being substituted in the oval frame surrounding the head. A glance at our engravings will explain this. The envelopes are all very handsome, owing to the brilliant red of the embossed stamp and the superior quality of paper. There are eight values: all of the Plimpton values except the 5 c., 7 c., 24 c. and 90 c., though one would expect these last named. There are five shapes: O, P, R, T and U. If any exist on Q (Commercial), they are essays or freaks of the workmen. The 1 c., 2 c., 3 c. and 10 c. are all from the second die of each value, die C of the 2 c. not appearing.



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REFERENCE LIST OF WAR DEPARTMENT ENVELOPES. ISSUE VII.

No.	Size.	Shape.	Die.	Color.	Value.	Paper.	Wmk.
NOTE.							
418	No. 1	O	B	Red	3 c.	White	A
ORDINARY LETTER.							
419	No. 2	P	B	Red	1 c.	White	A
420	No. 2	P	B	Red	1 c.	Amber	A
421	No. 2	P	B	Red	2 c.	White	A
422	No. 2	P	B	Red	2 c.	Amber	A
423	No. 2	P	B	Red	3 c.	White	A
424	No. 2 ✓	P	B	Red	3 c.	Amber	A
425	No. 2	P	B	Red	3 c.	Cream	A
426	No. 2 ✓	P	B	Red	3 c.	Blue	A
FULL LETTER.							
427	No. 3	U	B	Red	3 c.	White	A
428	No. 3	U	B	Red	3 c.	White	B
429	No. 3 ✓	U	B	Red	3 c.	Amber	A
430	No. 3 ✓	T	B	Red	3 c.	Cream	A
431	No. 3 ✓	U	B	Red	3 c.	Cream	A
432	No. 3 ✓	U	B	Red	3 c.	Blue	A
433	No. 3 ✓	U		Red	6 c.	White	A
434	No. 3 ✓	U		Red	6 c.	White	B
435	No. 3 ✓	U		Red	6 c.	Amber	A
436	No. 3 ✓	U		Red	6 c.	Cream	A
437	No. 3	U	B	Red	10 c.	White	A
438	No. 3	U	B	Red	10 c.	Amber	A
EXTRA LETTER.							
439	No. 5 ✓	U	B	Red	3 c.	White	A
440	No. 5 ✓	U	B	Red	3 c.	Amber	A
441	No. 5 ✓	U	B	Red	3 c.	Amber (3)	A
442	No. 5 ✓	U		Red	6 c.	White	A
443	No. 5	U		Red	6 c.	White	B
444	No. 5 ✓	U		Red	6 c.	Amber	A
445	No. 5 ✓	U		Red	6 c.	Cream	A
EXTRA LETTER—UNGUMMED.							
446	No. 6 ✓	T	B	Red	2 c.	Orange	A
OFFICIAL.							
447	No. 7	R	B	Red	3 c.	White	A
448	No. 7	R	B	Red	3 c.	Amber	A
449	No. 7	R	B	Red	3 c.	Cream	A
450	No. 7	R		Red	6 c.	White	A
451	No. 7 ✓	R		Red	6 c.	Amber	A

No.	Size.	Shape.	Die.	Color.	Value.	Paper.	Wmk.
452	No. 7 ✓	R		Red	.6 c.	Cream	A
453	No. 7 ✓	R	B	Red	10 e.	White	A
454	No. 7 ✓	R	B	Red	10 e.	Amber	A
455	No. 7 ✓	R		Red	12 e.	White	A
456	No. 7 ✓	R		Red	12 e.	Amber	A
457	No. 7 ✓	R		Red	15 e.	White	A
458	No. 7 ✓	R		Red	15 e.	Amber	A
459	No. 7 ✓	R		Red	30 e.	White	A
460	No. 7 ✓	R		Red	30 e.	Amber	A

EXTRA OFFICIAL.

461	No. 8 ✓	R ✓		Red	6 e.	White	A
462	No. 8 ✓	R		Red	6 e.	Amber	A
463	No. 8 ✓	R		Red	6 c.	Cream	A
464	No. 8 ✓	R		Red	12 e.	White	A
465	No. 8 ✓	R		Red	12 e.	Amber	A
466	No. 8 ✓	R		Red	15 e.	White	A
467	No. 8 ✓	R		Red	15 e.	Amber	A
468	No. 8 ✓	R		Red	30 e.	White	A
469	No. 8 ✓	R		Red	30 e.	Amber	A

NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS.

470	No. 9 ✓	Reet.	B	Red	1 c.	Manila	A
471	No. 9 ✓	Reet.	B	Red	2 e.	Manila	A

CLOSING NOTES.

The white paper of this issue is always first quality, the amber first unless otherwise specified, as in No. 441, and the cream second. The collector will note the use of the Centennial paper for Nos. 428, 434 and 443. Also the existence of the first shape (T, pointed flap) in Full Letter, No. 430, and Extra Letter, No. 446. Very possibly it exists on other papers of the same sizes, but I have not seen them. These envelopes having been replaced by the ordinary white unstamped envelopes now in general use by all the Departments, it is becoming difficult to obtain a full set. The paper of No. 431 runs almost to fawn, while No. 463 is of the reddish cream peculiar to the early issues.

ENVELOPES ISSUED FOR THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Not to be behind the previous issue, the Plimpton Company prepared dies specially for the Post Office Department, resembling very closely those of the Reay issue. Careful examination will show, however, that the figures of the Plimpton dies are larger in all three values. There are no varieties. The paper runs in all imaginable shades of yellow, from light lemon to deep chrome yellow, the majority, however, keeping pretty

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closely to the normal color, canary. The Department indulged itself in no less than six different sorts of official envelopes, only three of which merit attention. We give them in the order in which they appear to have been used:

1. Unwatermarked yellow paper in Full Letter and Official sizes, bearing the official "caution," but cut by a different knife, and having a rectangle printed in upper right hand corner, enclosing words, "Here affix official stamp."
2. Canary paper, watermarked U. S. P. O. D. (A), in Full Letter, Extra Letter, Official and Extra Official sizes. One each also in white and very pale amber, Extra Letter size.
3. Canary paper, watermarked U. S. Postal Service (C), in same sizes as last.
4. Unwatermarked white and yellow paper in Full Letter and Official sizes, cut by different knife, and without official "caution."
5. Canary paper, watermarked U. S. Postal Service (C), and bearing official "caution," but unstamped in Full Letter and Official sizes.
6. Blue paper, watermarked U. S. Postal Service (C), in Full Letter, Extra Letter, Official and Extra Official sizes. A very few come on paper watermarked U. S. P. O. D. (A.), and the Third Assistant Postmaster General used, for notices of dead letters, Extra Letter size on amber and canary, watermarked respectively A and C. All these bear the official seal in blue, in upper right hand corner, as per illustration herewith:



Of the above six classes, the first and fourth need no further mention. The fifth shows the regular shapes and is a *bona fide* official envelope. We now present lists of the second, third and sixth in order. Three shapes appear in them, T, U and R.



United States Envelopes.

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Plimpton.

REFERENCE LIST POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT ENVELOPES. ISSUE VII.

WATERMARK U. S. P. O. D.

No.	Size.	Shape.	Color.	Value.	Paper.
-----	-------	--------	--------	--------	--------

FULL LETTER.

472	No. 3 ✓	T	Black	2 c.	Canary
473	No. 3 ✓	U	Black	2 c.	Canary
474	No. 3 ✓	T	Black	3 c.	Canary
475	No. 3 ✓	U	Black	3 c.	Canary
476	No. 3 ✓	U	Black	6 c.	Canary

EXTRA LETTER.

477	No. 5 ✓	U	Black	2 c.	White
478	No. 5 ✓	T	Black	2 c.	Canary
479	No. 5 ✓	U	Black	2 c.	Canary
480	No. 5 ✓	T	Black	3 c.	Pale amber
481	No. 5 ✓	U	Black	3 c.	Pale amber
482	No. 5 ✓	T	Black	3 c.	Canary
483	No. 5 ✓	U	Black	3 c.	Canary
484	No. 5 ✓	U	Black	6 c.	Canary

OFFICIAL.

485	No. 7 ✓	R	Black	2 c.	Canary
486	No. 7 ✓	R	Black	3 c.	Canary
487	No. 7 ✓	R	Black	6 c.	Canary

EXTRA OFFICIAL.

488	No. 8 ✓	R	Black	2 c.	Canary
489	No. 8 ✓	R	Black	6 c.	Canary

REFERENCE LIST POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT ENVELOPES. ISSUE VII.

WATERMARK U. S. POSTAL SERVICE.

No.	Size.	Shape.	Color.	Value.	Paper.
-----	-------	--------	--------	--------	--------

FULL LETTER.

490	No. 3 ✓	U	Black	2 c.	Canary
491	No. 3 ✓	U	Black	3 c.	Canary

EXTRA LETTER.

492	No. 5 ✓	U	Black	2 c.	Canary
493	No. 5 ✓	U	Black	3 c.	Canary

OFFICIAL.

494	No. 7 ✓	R	Black	2 c.	Canary
495	No. 7 ✓	R	Black	3 c.	Canary
496	No. 7 ✓	R	Black	6 c.	Canary

EXTRA OFFICIAL.

497	No. 8 ✓	R	Black	6 c.	Canary
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Plimpton.

CLOSING NOTES.

The collector will notice how the early shape (T, pointed flap) runs through those Post Office envelopes bearing the old watermark. The change of watermark was made in July, 1877, about the time of the issue of the blue envelopes, which, under the Act of March 3, 1877, were to supersede the canary stamped ones. I have called these envelopes by their regular numbers, 3, 5, 7 and 8 (although they are known to the Department as 1, 2, 3, and 4) to avoid confusion. No. 476 I have only seen in "Specimen." I have heard that a 3 c. was issued on white, as a companion to No. 477, but have never seen it. No. 480 I have never seen, although it doubtless exists. The color of No. 481 is very light, running almost to white, and all that I have ever seen were intended for use in Canadian Money Order Business. No. 484 is said to have been used, and No. 488 was issued, but whether used or not I cannot say. All the envelopes of both watermarks come with printed addresses to the various heads of departments and bureaus, and other postal officials.

POSTAL SERVICE ENVELOPES.

Soon after the passage of the Act of March 3, 1877, which restored in a limited degree the franking privilege to the Post Office Department, and a few other branches of the Government, special envelopes were issued for use by the postal officials in Washington. These bear no stamp or indication of value but the seal already illustrated, the name of the bureau, and customary caution, or rather penalty. The paper is a good first quality, blue, varying from indigo to pale chalky blue, and, with few exceptions, bearing watermark C. A few, however, are found with A. There are four sizes: Full Letter, Extra Letter, Official and Extra Official, and two shapes: U and R. In the accompanying Reference List, I have followed the order of the "Postal Guide" as to heads and sub-divisions. Where no number is given, I have not seen the envelope so omitted. The numbers given are those used by the Department, viz.: 1 for Full Letter, 2 for Extra Letter, 3 for Official, and 4 for Extra Official.

REFERENCE LIST BLUE POSTAL SERVICE ENVELOPES.

No.	F. Let.	No.	Ex. Let.	No.	Offi.	No.	Ex. Offi.
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.							
				498 ✓	No. 3	499	No. 4
POSTMASTER GENERAL.							
500	No. 1			501	No. 3*	502	No. 4
CHIEF CLERK.							
503	No. 1			504	No. 3	505	No. 4
FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.							
				506 ✓	No. 2	507 ✓	No. 3
						508	No. 4

Plimpton.

No.	F. Let.	No.	Ex. Let.	No.	Offi.	No.	Ex. Offi.
SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.							
509	No. 1*	510	No. 2	511 ✓	No. 3	512 ✓	No. 4
DIVISION OF RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.							
		513	No. 2	514 ✓	No. 3	515 ✓	No. 4
THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.							
		516 ✓	No. 2	517 ✓	No. 3	518	No. 4
DIVISION OF FINANCE.							
				519	No. 3	520	No. 4
DISBURSING CLERK AND SUPERINTENDENT.							
		521	No. 2	522	No. 3		
DIVISION OF DEAD LETTERS.							
		523 ✓	No. 2†	524	No. 3	525	No. 4
DIVISION OF STAMPS, STAMPED ENVELOPES, ETC.							
		526 ✓	No. 2	527 ✓	No. 3	528	No. 4
DIVISION OF REGISTRATION.							
				529	No. 3		
OFFICE OF FOREIGN MAILS.							
		530	No. 2	531 ✓	No. 3	532 ✓	No. 4
MONEY ORDER OFFICE.							
		533	No. 2	534 ✓	No. 3	535	No. 4
TOPOGRAPHER'S OFFICE.							
536	No. 1	537	No. 2	538 ✓	No. 3	539	No. 4
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL.							
		540	No. 2	541 ✓	No. 3		

* Watermark A.

† On canary and amber paper, bearing surcharge in blue, of a circle, a square, a triangle, a double triangle, or plain, in addition to regular surcharges. These devices usually stand between name of bureau and seal. but the circle is sometimes in left upper corner.

CLOSING NOTE.

Quite likely the above list is not perfect. I do not think it is, but give it for the satisfaction of such collectors as may be induced to render it more nearly complete.

48 *Plimpton United States Envelopes.*

Plimpton.

CENTENNIAL ENVELOPES.

With the advent of 1876, the Government decided on the issue of a special envelope with appropriate device as a sort of memento of the year. As mentioned elsewhere, specially water-marked paper was prepared, but until this was ready the old paper (watermark A) was used. Envelopes on this paper in both sizes are now growing scarce. Only two sizes were issued, Full Letter and Commercial, both of which come on both kinds of paper, the paper being always first quality, white. Two transfers of the same die were used, one at Philadelphia, the other at Hartford, where the Plimpton factory is situated. A very close examination will show the letters "U. S. M." on the hindmost ear in the stamp. While there are some minor differences, the most marked point observable between the transfers is in the lower edge of the label containing the word "Postage," which in the Hartford is perfect, but in the Philadelphia is cracked or double. The Full Letter has the stamp impressed in green, the Commercial in red. We present illustrations of both transfers :



Hartford.



Philadelphia.

REFERENCE LIST CENTENNIAL ENVELOPES.

No.	Size.	Shape.	Transfer.	Color.	Value.	Paper.	Wmk.
542	Full Letter	U	Hartford	Green	3 c.	White	B
543	Full Letter	U	Philadelphia	Green	3 c.	White	A
544	Full Letter	U	Philadelphia	Green	3 c.	White	B
545	Commercial	U	Hartford	Red	3 c.	White	A
546	Commercial	U	Hartford	Red	3 c.	White	B

CLOSING NOTES.

Some fault has been found with the design of this memorial stamp, but it appears to us that no better device could have been found than the post-boy of 1776 contrasting with the telegraph and railway mail-service of 1876. Many other designs were submitted to the Government. The green runs from pale pea-green to deep dark green, and the red from pink and rose to deep, brilliant red. These envelopes were manufactured by the tens of thousands in the Government Building at the Centennial, as well as at

Hartford, and were largely used. Many collectors will remember the ingenious little machine by which they were made. With the end of the year, their manufacture was discontinued and they now rarely appear in the mails.

UNCOLORED ENVELOPES.

These philatelic albinos merit only passing notice. They are due to carelessness or undue haste in the workmen, and are caused by the edges of two envelopes or wrappers adhering and only the upper one receiving the blow of the die. They are perfectly good for use whether colored or not. A list of them is useless, as no one knows how many there are. The writer has fifteen or sixteen different ones, all confined to the three lowest values, and on all colors of paper. Doubtless, there are nearly as many more in existence. There is one known with one impression on front of the envelope, and another on the back, both without color, another with two colorless impressions on the front of the wrapper, and a third with one colored and another uncolored just below it.

REGISTERED LETTER ENVELOPES.

These are made of very heavy, tough manila paper, bearing "Instructions," "Record of Transit," and address, all printed in red, and shaped so as to afford absolute protection to the contents. There have been three varieties: first, red, white and red in three broad parallel bars covering entire face; second, plain, with wide red border; third, scalloped-edged flap, lace-work edge at ends, fancy interwoven border, and plain face. They are all of about the same size, 10 by 5 inches.

ISSUE VIII.

When the contract with the Plimpton Company was renewed for another period of four years on its expiration in July, 1878, it was decided to make a change in nearly all the sizes and some of the papers of the envelopes. The Government, finding that such changes would enable them to lower the prices, and thereby conduce to the more general use of stamped envelopes, issued a circular to postmasters in September, 1878, notifying them of such change, and, October 1, the new schedule appeared, the envelopes not to be issued until January 1, 1879. We give table of sizes:

No. 1	Note,	2 13-16 x 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.
No. 2	Ordinary Letter,	3 1-16 x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
No. 3	Full Letter,	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
No. 4	Full Letter,	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
No. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Commercial,	3 $\frac{3}{8}$ x 5 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches.
No. 5	Extra Letter,	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 6 5-16 inches.

Plimpton.

50 Plimpton United States Envelopes. 1879 series.

No. 6	Extra Letter,	$3\frac{1}{2}$ x	6 5-16 inches.
No. 7	Official,	$3\frac{7}{8}$ x	$8\frac{7}{8}$ inches.
No. 8	Extra Official,	$4\frac{3}{8}$ x	10 3-16 inches.
No. 9	Newspaper Wrappers,	$6\frac{3}{8}$ x	9 7-16 inches.

Only Full Letter, Commercial and Newspaper Wrappers are unchanged. Should the old watermark be kept, there will be no distinction between the old and new envelopes of these sizes. The change of paper alluded to above consists in the substitution of fawn for cream in each of the five sizes in which the latter was formerly used. It will be remembered that in 1874, the Plimpton Company introduced this paper, but it was not approved by the Government. The cream paper has shown a decided tendency to run into fawn, however, all through the Plimpton contract.

REFERENCE LIST ISSUE VIII.

No.	Size.	Shape.	Die.	Color.	Value.	Paper.	Wmk.
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NOTE.

547	No. 1		B	Green	3 c.	White	
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ORDINARY LETTER.

548	No. 2		B	Blue	1 c.	White	
549	No. 2		B	Blue	1 c.	Amber	
550	No. 2		C	Red	2 c.	White	
551 ✓	No. 2		C	Red	2 c.	Amber	
552	No. 2		B	Green	3 c.	White	
553 ✓	No. 2		B	Green	3 c.	Amber	
554	No. 2		B	Green	3 c.	Fawn	
555	No. 2		B	Green	3 c.	Blue	

FULL LETTER.

556 ✓	No. 3		B	Green	3 c.	White	
557 ✓	No. 3		B	Green	3 c.	Amber	
558 ✓	No. 3		B	Green	3 c.	Fawn	
559	No. 3		B	Green	3 c.	Blue	
560	No. 3		A	Blue	5 c.	White	
561	No. 3		A	Blue	5 c.	Amber	
562	No. 3		A	Blue	5 c.	Blue	

FULL LETTER—UNGUMMED.

563 ✓	No. 4		B	Blue	1 c.	Orange	
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COMMERCIAL.

564 ✓	No. 4½		C	Red	2 c.	Fawn	
565	No. 4½		B	Green	3 c.	White	
566	No. 4½		B	Green	3 c.	Amber	
567	No. 4½		B	Green	3 c.	Fawn	
568 ✓	No. 4½		B	Green	3 c.	Blue	

569 ✓	No. 4½	B	Blue	5 c.	White
570 ✓	No. 4½	B	Blue	5 c.	Amber
571	No. 4½	A	Blue	5 c.	Blue
572	No. 4½		Red	6 c.	White
573	No. 4½		Red	6 c.	Amber
574 ✓	No. 4½		Red	6 c.	Fawn
575	No. 4½	B	Brown	10 c.	White
576	No. 4½	B	Brown	10 c.	Amber

EXTRA LETTER.

577 ✓	No. 5	B	Green	3 c.	White
578 ✓	No. 5	B	Green	3 c.	Amber
579 ✓	No. 5	B	Green	3 c.	Fawn
580 ✓	No. 5	B	Green	3 c.	Blue
581	No. 5		Red	6 c.	White
582	No. 5		Red	6 c.	Amber

EXTRA LETTER—UNGUMMED.

583 ✓	No. 6	B	Blue	1 c.	Orange
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OFFICIAL.

584 ✓	No. 7	B	Green	3 c.	Fawn
585 ✓	No. 7	A	Blue	5 c.	Fawn
586 ✓	No. 7		Red	6 c.	White
587 ✓	No. 7		Red	6 c.	Amber
588 ✓	No. 7		Red	6 c.	Fawn
589 ✓	No. 7	B	Brown	10 c.	White
590 ✓	No. 7	B	Brown	10 c.	Amber

EXTRA OFFICIAL.

591 ✓	No. 8		Red	6 c.	White
592	No. 8		Orange	15 c.	White
593 ✓	No. 8		Black	30 c.	White
594	No. 8		Carmine	90 c.	White

NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS.

595 ✓	No. 9	Rect.	B	Blue	1 c.	Manila
596 ✓	No. 9	Rect.	C	Red	2 c.	Manila

CLOSING NOTES.

The shapes and watermarks of this issue have been left blank, as diligent inquiry at the Department has failed to elicit any definite information as to them. The collector can, however, easily fill them out after January 1, 1879, when the envelopes will be given to the public. The white and amber paper is always first quality, the fawn second, the blue third. The envelopes and wrappers are made by the Plimpton and Morgan Manufacturing Company, as it is now called, of Hartford, Conn.

CONCLUSION.

As I draw to the end of what has been to me a most pleasant task, I cannot refrain from expressing my obligations to Mr. Freeman's monograph. My own essay is, in many respects, but a continuation of his; I only hope it will bear as well the test of time. My thanks are due also to Mr. Coster, who has been ever ready to respond; to Dr. Bowers and Mr. Sterling for the examination of specimens not in my own collection, and to Mr. Durbin, for the generosity with which he has supplied everything needful to the work. May it prove as instructive and valuable to the public as it has been pleasant and profitable to the author.

W. E. V. H.

Freehold, December, 1878.

ERRATA.

On page 10, in consequence of an omission, the four half-numbers were inserted rather than to change all subsequent numbers. The total number of envelopes chronicled is therefore exactly six hundred.

On page 12, in mentioning number of shapes, N should be omitted. I have never met N in Issue III, nor does Mr. Freeman mention it save with a query. ✓

On page 18, under heading of "Shapes," read 1872 for 1870. ✓

On page 24, by a provoking error, not discovered until the entire form was printed, the Plimpton die of the 15 c. War was inserted instead of the Reay. We present Reay die herewith: ✓



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NEW

STAMPER ENVELOPES

OF THE

UNITED STATES

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